



# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
WWW.MUSCOGEEATION-NSN.GOV - COMMUNICATIONS@MUSCOGEEATION-NSN.GOV

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit # 14  
Okmulgee, OK  
74447



Volume 36, Issue 2

P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

February 2006

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### THIS MONTH'S REMINDER

Tune in to Cox Cable Channel 3 on Saturday mornings from 11 to 11:30 a.m. and watch *The Muscoogee Nation News* Monthly. Gerald Wofford and Jason Salsman host the 30 minute program geared toward broadcasting tribal news about the Muscoogee (Creek) Nation, as well as national issues that affects our citizens.

## Chief's State of the Nation Address highlights historic event



Principal Chief A.D. Ellis gives his State of the Nation Address to the 26-member legislative body of the 14th session.

photo by Mallory Bible

by JASON SALSMAN

MNN Staff Writer

OKMULGEE — On Jan. 28, a day that was truly historic for the Muscoogee (Creek) Nation, Principal Chief A.D. Ellis stood before a capacity crowd at the mound auditorium and delivered the state of the nation address before the first quarterly session of the newly elected National Council.

Chief Ellis spoke of the current status of the tribe and outlined a plan for the coming year to insure that the nation continues to thrive both economically and socially. "The Muscoogee (Creek) Nation is in the best financial standing in its history with more than \$90 million in a permanent fund," said Ellis.

George Tiger, recently elected as new Council Speaker, spoke to the audience with spirited enthusiasm about the importance of the day. "On this day a new chapter in the

history of our proud nation is being written," Tiger said.

"New beginnings" was definitely the theme of the day's festivities with several first-time elected tribal representatives in place, as well as the State of the Nation address and Council session being brought to the citizens for the first time via the internet through a live webcast. Now citizens can view tribal government proceedings in the comfort of their homes or at their respective Indian community centers. Chief Ellis and the Council both have worked vigorously to insure that the tribe's citizens will have greater access to their government, and were pleased with the culmination of the project.

The packed auditorium was full of citizens and tribal leaders, as well as state officials. On hand were Oklahoma House of

Representatives members Jerry McPeak, Brian Bingham, Jerry Shoemaker and Dale Turner. State senators Richard Lerblance and Frank Shurden were also present. Dan Keating, who was recently at the Tribal Capitol Complex to announce his candidacy for state treasurer, attended the session as well. There were also county and city officials in attendance in addition to representatives from Veterans Affairs. "I thought it was very important that leaders on the state, city and county level join us in our quest to strengthen government to government relations," added George Tiger.

Citizens now have the opportunity to view their own tribal government live or archived sessions by visiting [www.muscoogeeation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscoogeeation-nsn.gov) and clicking on the designated link.

## Okmulgee Fire Chief retires after many years of service

by SUZIE JOKI

MNN Staff Writer

OKMULGEE — On Jan. 21, friends and family gathered to honor Robert (Bob) Hardridge in celebration of his 26 years of service to the city of Okmulgee. Hardridge is retiring after serving 20 years at the Okmulgee Fire Department as a firefighter, including six and a half years as Fire Chief.

The celebration began with prayer from retired pastor Joe Lowe and a blessing for the food by retired Pastor Dave Long. Principal Chief A.D. Ellis and Oklahoma State Representative Jerry Shoemaker presented proclamations recognizing Hardridge's 26 years of service to the city of Okmulgee. Many firefighters, council members and Okmulgee officials were also in attendance.

"He is a super guy to work with," said Fire Marshall Rick Chisum. "He is very supportive and took care of busi-

ness during his tenure. The Fire Department was able to move into two new facilities; central and east side stations. The fire department has also acquired modern equipment while Hardridge served as Fire Chief. I have enjoyed working with him."

He is a fourth generation Creek citizen and has served on the National Council. Hardridge is an active member of the American Legion of Foreign War and serves on the Board of Trustees at the Honey Creek Indian United Methodist Church. Hardridge was born in Okmulgee and has a daughter, Ginger Ann, and son, Drew, who resides in Arkansas. "His greatest joy is his three year old grandson, Heath," states Pearl Thomas.

Hardridge plans to spend his retirement enjoying his two favorite hobbies, drawing/painting and hunting.



photo by Suzie Joki

## Tobacco program kicks off advocacy campaign

OKMULGEE — The Muscoogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program (TPP) has initiated the "Kick Butts Day" (KBD) campaign. KBD is the campaign for tobacco-free kids annual celebration of youth advocacy, leadership and activism.

The event reminds our citizens and the general public in a very real way that 1,200 Americans die every single day as a result of commercial tobacco abuse. Youth from around the country will join the Muscoogee (Creek) Nation youth in showing communities why youth empowerment and youth activism is so important in this fight to save lives.

TPP wants to show how the youth are taking the lead on this issue and how youth led programs are getting other young people involved. "We want to show that young people are causing change," said Marcus Proctor. "The youth are driving the tobacco control movement forward."

KBD utilizes Mr. Butts, a big tobacco icon, as the basis for the campaign. Mr.

Butts has been arrested and charged with targeting the unsuspecting Muscoogee Nation youth, killing hundreds of thousands of Native Americans every year, using Native American imagery to sell their deadly products, addicting millions more, and causing many deadly diseases for children and elders.

"We thought it would be strategic to make cigarettes with no additives and then market them to the unsuspecting

Muscoogee youth as a better and healthier alternative to ordinary cigarettes," said Mr. Butts. "Your belief that our cigarettes are actually a healthier alternative has allowed us to make billions of dollars over the years from your tribal

smoke shops. And the big old picture of that Muscoogee Chief on the carton is to remind you that smoking cigarettes is traditional."

According to TPP, Mr. Butts is currently being held without bond at the Muscoogee Nation. Stay tuned to KOKL 1240 AM on Wednesdays for the latest breaking news on the KBD campaign.



Mr. Butts, big tobacco icon.

reach managing editor Lucas Taylor at: e-mail: [lucast@muscoogeeation-nsn.gov](mailto:lucast@muscoogeeation-nsn.gov) phone: (918) 732-7634 fax: (918) 758-0824

## Chief and Speaker sign legislation for home loans for Native American veterans

OKMULGEE — At January's quarterly session, the National Council unanimously approved legislation for a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

On Feb 6, National Council Speaker George Tiger and Chief A.D. Ellis signed the official document.

"This bill will initiate the program, VA Direct Home Loans for Native American Veterans Living on Trust Lands," states Ken Davis, Veterans Affairs Director.

The first step in applying for the VA Direct Home Loan is to obtain a VA Certificate of Eligibility. Before the actual applications for the loan can proceed, VA Form 26-1880 must be filed in order to initiate a request to secure the all

important, and absolutely necessary certificate.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation is the first tribe in the state of Oklahoma to provide this program for its veterans.



Pictured from left to right are: National Council Speaker George Tiger, Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, and Director of Veterans Affairs Ken Davis. photo by Jason Salsman

Davis will be traveling to Houston this month to acquire the knowledge necessary to administer this program for veterans within the tribe. For more information, contact Ken Davis at (918) 732-7739.

## Second Chief presents Okemah with new fire truck

OKEMAH — Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council passed legislation to appropriate funds to purchase a 2006 Chevy Fire Truck for the Okemah

Second Chief Alfred Berryhill was recently in Okemah to present the Fire Department with the keys to their new vehicle.



From left: City Manager Jerry Turner, Fire Chief Jim Copeland, Amos Rabbit, former council representatives Sandra Golden and Nancy West Watson, and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Alfred Berryhill.

## December District Court filings

### Traffic:

- MCN v. Helen Ray
- Driving Under Suspension
- MCN v. Joe Honeycutt
- Driving Under Suspension
- MCN v. Joe Honeycutt
- No Insurance
- MCN v. Joe Honeycutt
- Possession of Paraphernalia
- MCN v. Gene Miller
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Sharon Barnes
- Invalid Drivers License
- MCN v. Sharon Barnes
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Preston D. Dugan
- Possession of Illegal Drugs
- MCN v. Don Ronald Collins
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Virgil Sanders, Jr.
- No Insurance
- MCN v. Virgil Sanders, Jr.
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. May Nhia Xiong
- No Valid Drivers License
- MCN v. May Nhia Xiong
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Jeffrey Wayne Cobb
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Barri Jo Cagle
- Driving Under Suspension

- MCN v. Barri Jo Cagle
- No Insurance
- MCN v. Barri Jo Cagle
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Edgar Dishman
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Jeremy Mobely
- Disorderly Conduct

## January District Court filings

### Traffic:

- MCN v. Roy Wilson
- Driving Under Suspension
- MCN v. Roy Wilson
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Gage Gentry
- Driving w/flagged License
- MCN v. Gage Gentry
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Gage Gentry
- Failure to Carry Insurance
- MCN v. Amy Ballard
- Open Alcoholic Container on Federal property
- MCN v. Thomas Marcom
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Thomas Marcom
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Thomas Marcom
- Driving Under Suspension
- MCN v. Thomas Marcom
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. George Tipton
- Carrying Firearm on Tribal Property
- MCN v. Stephanie Reyes
- No Drivers License
- MCN v. Jennifer Cross
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Woodrow Rentie
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Woodrow Rentie
- No Drivers License
- MCN v. Gregory Marquette
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Gregory Marquette
- No Insurance Verification
- MCN v. Thomas Jefferson
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. John Baker Logan III
- Driving Under Suspension
- MCN v. Jean Lunt
- Driving on the wrong side of the Roadway
- MCN v. Andrew Sellers
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Sandra Simmons
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Tommy Rogers
- Driving Under Suspension

- MCN v. Tommy Rogers
- No Insurance
- MCN v. Aaron Temple Kirk
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Larry Scott Johnson
- No Seatbelt on Tribal Land
- MCN v. Larry Scott Johnson
- No Insurance
- MCN v. Calvin Stewart Leffall
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Peter Andrew Schiller
- Trespassing
- MCN v. Dee Jay Pollock
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Dee Jay Pollock
- Failure to Carry Insurance
- MCN v. Dee Jay Pollock
- Driving Under Suspension
- MCN v. Gregory Scott Ogle
- Driving Under Suspension
- MCN v. Gregory Scott Ogle
- No Insurance
- MCN v. Jacob A. Amann
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. James Maher
- Driving Under Suspension
- MCN v. Gerald W. Wacoche
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Gerald W. Wacoche
- Operating Motor Vehicle while license is suspended
- MCN v. Gerald W. Wacoche
- Possession of Alcohol on Tribal Land
- MCN v. Cary H. Pruitt III
- Operating Motor Vehicle while license is suspended
- MCN v. Cary H. Pruitt III
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Billie Whitehead
- No Drivers License
- MCN v. Billie Whitehead
- No Insurance
- MCN v. Robert G. Linn
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Maya L. Drew
- Expired Tag
- MCN v. Maya L. Drew
- Driving Under Suspension
- MCN v. Maya L. Drew
- No Insurance
- MCN v. Amanda Short
- No Insurance
- MCN v. Jacob Aaron Ward
- Illegal Possession of Alcohol on Tribal Land
- MCN v. Deborah McCaskill
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. James Roy Lane
- Reckless Driving
- MCN v. Jimmy Dee Cauthon
- Driving Under Suspension
- MCN v. Travis Dale Christie
- Possession of Illegal Drug
- MCN v. Travis Dale Christie
- Open Receptacle
- MCN v. Kevin Thomas Wagner
- Possession of Illegal Drug
- MCN v. Jason Artussee Knight
- Reckless Driving
- MCN v. April L. Block
- Invalid Drivers License
- MCN v. Efrain Camerene
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Kelly Brett Beaver
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Jay Thomas Coulter
- Disorderly Conduct
- Divorce:
- Cassandra Fixico v. Thomas Fixico
- Petition for Divorce
- Christine Roberts v. Carney Roberts
- Petition for Divorce
- Bobby Culley v. Reuben Cook Culley
- Petition for Dissolution of Marriage

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

### Family sends gratitude

The family of Aunt Katie Smith would like to thank everyone for their loving kindness and assistance in the celebration of the life of Aunt Katie Smith. Aunt Katie's legacy of music, her love for the Lord and her caring spirit will always live on. The family thanks Chief Ellis, Second Chief Berryhill and the National Council for their support during this time.

The Thomas Family

### Citizen commends communications

As a tribal member living in Arizona, I would like to congratulate you on the superb effort you made to make this production a success. You have opened up a new world for a lot of tribal members that don't have the opportunity to attend the council meetings. I am sure you will continue to evaluate your effort and make improvements in the future. Due to your efforts, the eyes of the world are now on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Good luck in your future productions and thank you for bringing my tribe to my home in a distant land.

Jim Byrd  
Sierra Vista, AZ

### Family Domestic:

- TCSE, Ex. Rel. Jenae Vance v. Tommy King
- TCSE, Ex. Rel. Jeremy Beilhart v. Marie Bruner

### Marriage License:

- Destina Mondragon v. Roderick Smith

### Criminal Misdemeanor:

- MCN v. Kevin Kaniatobe
- Ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Anthony Martin
- Ct. 1 Attempted Larceny
- MCN v. Phillip Wilson
- Ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Glenda Morris
- Ct. 1 Public Intoxication
- Criminal Felonies:
- MCN v. Brenda Kinnaird
- Ct. 1 Possession of illegal drugs
- Ct. 2 Possession of illegal drug paraphernalia
- MCN v. William Murray
- Ct. 1 Resisting Arrest
- Ct. 2 Possession of illegal drugs w/intent to distribute
- Ct. 3 Possession of illegal drug paraphernalia
- MCN v. Joey Dean Himes
- Ct. 1 Possession of illegal drug paraphernalia
- MCN v. Deborah McCaskill
- Ct. 1 Carrying weapon in or about Building located on Tribal Lands
- MCN v. Judy Lovett
- Ct. 1 Possession of illegal drug paraphernalia
- MCN v. Mark Tate
- Ct. 1 Possession of illegal drug paraphernalia

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Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of the previous month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard. **The Muscogee Nation News** is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

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## LEGISLATION BRIEFS

## CORRECTION:

In last month's issue of the MNN, a brief was ran on NCA 05-235, A special appropriation for the third year of support for Okmulgee County YMCA water play park. sponsor: David Nichols; cosponsor: Ron Cleghorn. Some specific information was not included in the brief. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused. The following is the revised article.

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has agreed to make a special appropriation to the Okmulgee County YMCA water play park for five years in the amount of \$50,000 per year. Some citizens and employees of the tribe may wonder how does this benefit me?

The following are a few benefits that the citizens may not know about:

- Joining fee is waived to all tribal citizens for five years or the duration of pledge;

- Free participation in YMCA basketball leagues for all children of Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees;

- Water aerobics are free for Creek Nation Seniors with a citizenship card (limited space);

- Free swim during member swim with a citizenship card;

- The Friday that the Creek Nation Festival is held in June, the swimming pool is reserved for tribal citizens only with citizenship card. Citizens may swim free on Saturday of the festival with citizenship card;

- The YMCA will reserve the use of the swimming facility for one full weekend (Saturday & Sunday) for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to use as an employee appreciation event or other event;

- The YMCA will make available its facility for Native American basketball tournaments for four weekends per year. All tournament entry fees and concession profits going to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; and

- Open Door program — this allows low-income families to get a discounted monthly rate.

The YMCA also agreed to let the Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees hold a basketball league during the past four weeks.

The YMCA has agreed to accommodate the Creek citizens as much as possible. Should you have any questions, contact the YMCA at (918) 756-6677.

## From the desk of the Speaker:

OKMULGEE — Hensci! It is an honor and privilege to serve as Speaker of the 14th Session of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council.

January 28 will always be remembered as a day a new chapter was written in the annals of Muscogee (Creek) Nation history. Through the use of technology our tribal members throughout the world were able to watch their government exercise their sovereign right. A right provided by the strength of the Con-



stitution we protect and uphold. In the following week of Quarterly Session our Council office received a deluge of phone calls from many tribal members expressing a great sense of pride in what they witnessed on the web cast. Comments received were positive, encouraging and motivational.

In addition to our tribal members and relatives, guests at the Quarterly Session included Senate and House members of the Oklahoma Legislature, Mayors, County Commissioners and candidates for state offices. I believe it is important that our Legislature begin a process of forming partnerships with all governments and to have these visitors witness our government in action is a monumental beginning.

I am looking forward in serving with this Council and our first meeting is a strong indication all

challenges will be met with results being positive and for the benefit of the tribal members we serve. All of my colleagues bring a wealth of resource to the council. The National Council consists of a strong diverse membership of financial, educational, gaming, health, law and governmental experience. My first priority as Speaker is to strengthen the line of communication between the Legislative and Executive branch. Chief Ellis and I have met on several occasions to exchange ideas in improving this concern. Changes are evident through the efforts of the staffs of each office and procedures are being implemented to ensure continuing improvements in this area. I believe this is a very important step in having the ability to work together.

Until next time, MVTO!

## Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the January 7, 2006, Special Session..

## January 7, Special session

Swearing in of National Council members — Supreme Court Justice Amos McNac conducted the swearing in of the National Council Members. The oath was taken in the Mvskoke language.

Election of Speaker — Dannette Mouser, Supreme Court Justice opened the floor for nomination of Speaker.

Creek District representative George Tiger and Tukvptce District representative Thomas Yahola were nominated for Speaker.

Creek District representative George Tiger announced as Speaker for the Palen-ostohkatkat (14th) session with 16 votes and Thomas Yahola having 10.

Nominations for Second Speaker included: Wagoner/Rogers/Mayes District Representative Richard Berryhill, Creek District representative Roger Barnett, and Tulsa District representative Cherrah Quiett.

Creek District representative

Roger Barnett announced as Second Speaker having 16 votes, Berryhill having 6 votes and Quiett having 4 votes.

Nominated for Sergeant-at-arms was McIntosh District representative, Anthony Notaro. No other nominations were taken. McIntosh District representative Anthony Notaro announced as Sergeant-at-arms.

## January 12, Emergency session

Representative Bill Fife and Jeff Fife will be late;

Absent were: Bill Fife, Okfuskee District and Jeff Fife Okmulgee District,

Speaker George Tiger, Creek District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

- approved (23-0-0) National Council 2006 session schedule;

- adopted (23-0-0) re-confirmation of the National Council Secretary;

- approved (23-0-0) absentee counters;

standing committee election of officers;

representative Bill Fife and Jeff Fife arrived after breaking into committees.

Council went into executive session.

## January 17, Extraordinary session

Representatives excused are: Sylvanna Caldwell and Thomas McIntosh.

Absent were: Tom Pickering, McIntosh District; Thomas McIntosh, McIntosh District; Sylvanna Caldwell, Tukvptce District; and Larry Bible, Tulsa District;

Speaker George Tiger, Creek District, conducted the meeting.

In order of business: representative Pickering arrived;

Speaker Tiger relinquished the chair to Second Speaker Barnett to address TR 06-010.

- postponed (15-7-0) TR 05-010, approving Merril Lynch as the underwriter of bond financing for the permanent financing at the new Tulsa Casino — sponsor: George Tiger;

voting no were: Tiger, Creek; Pickering, McIntosh, Notaro, McIntosh, Beaver, Muskogee; Yahola, Tukvptce; Quiett, Tulsa; and Berryhill, Wagoner.



14TH SESSION  
NATIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES  
2006 - 2008

## TRIBAL BUSINESS UPDATE

### New HR Software at MNBE

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise is implementing a new Human Resources software that will allow individuals anywhere in the world to fill out an employment application with MNBE on-line. "HR LOGIX, an Edmond, Oklahoma company has a unique software that will allow MNBE to create a worldwide database of potential applicants for various types of positions," said Woody Anderson, Sales Manager for MNBE. "This software will also allow us to identify tribal citizens and other qualified applicants across the nation with skill sets we can use in our Professional Management/Staffing contracts with the United States Army, other Federal customers and the other business units of MNBE. Tribal citizens living in the farthest parts of our tribal jurisdiction will be able to go to a computer and go to MNBE's website and be able to fill out an application without having to travel to our office in Okmulgee. It will provide a cost savings to tribal citizens both in time and money. An applicant will also be able to go to the site 24 hours a day to make any updates to their application."

"Our goal with the new system is to create a large database of applicants that will allow MNBE to competitively compete for Professional Management/Staffing contracts throughout the world," said Anderson.

According to Anderson, the timeline for going live with the software is March 24. MNBE invites all tribal citizens and anyone interested in employment opportunities with MNBE to keep checking their website at [www.mnbe.com](http://www.mnbe.com) for new updates. To find out more about HR LOGIX, you can visit their website at [www.hrlogix.com](http://www.hrlogix.com).

### MNBE meets with U. S. Army

FT. DETRICK, Maryland — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise officials met with U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity officials in January to discuss current and future task orders. Representing MNBE at the Ft. Detrick, Maryland meeting was Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, Michael Nalley, Director, Steve Johnson, Operations Manager and Federal Sales Manager Rene Mitchell.

During the meeting Mr. B.C. Baker III, Contracting Officer presented Second Chief Berryhill and MNBE with a framed copy of a letter sent to MNBE Federal Sales Manager Rene Mitchell August 5, 2005 thanking her and MNBE for helping USAMITC support our soldiers on the frontline.

"MNBE is extremely proud to be a support contractor to the United States Army and our troops," said Nalley. "We are also very honored and proud that our customer would write a letter recognizing the outstanding job by MNBE Federal Sales Manager Rene Mitchell and MNBE. She is well deserving of the recognition. It is a positive reflection on MNBE and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation."

MNBE has been awarded over 25 task orders under the current contract.

### Contracting Officer sends letter of thanks

Dear Mrs. Mitchell:

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you and the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) to thank you for all of the support that the Muscogee Nation has provided to the Army on behalf of the U. S. Army Medical Information Technology Center (USAMITC). It is apparent through our exercise of the next option period that we value you as a support contractor and business partner. Without your help and support USAMITC would not have been as successful in supporting our soldiers on the frontline. We have awarded around 25 task orders under the subject contract and have been very pleased with your performance and attention to detail to date. I look forward to working with you and MNBE in the future.

Thanks again for your continued support of our mission,  
/s/ Burzie C. Baker III, Contracting Officer

### AICCO Monthly Meeting for January

MUSKOGEE — American Indian Chamber of Commerce's Eastern Chapter held their monthly meeting Thursday, Jan. 26, at Bacone College Campus.

January's guest speaker was Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker George Tiger. Tiger expressed his support for Native American owned businesses.

This particular chapter has several tribal citizens involved: Andy Livesay, AICCO-Eastern Chapter Chairman and Bacone's Tribal Relations Director; Malissa Napier, Elder Council member, and MCN-OPC Executive Secretary; William Lowe, Chapter Membership Coordinator and Cherokee Nation Enterprises; John Timothy, Ataloo Lodge Museum Director; Jackie Jackson, Board of Directors of MCN's Trade and Commerce and Editor Chief/Publisher of Oklahoma Indian Gaming and Tourism magazine; and Floyd Jones, Bacone's Student Advisor. Other guests included NBA Hornets Representative Frank A. Depizzo and Clay Moser, Vice-President.

Others Creeks in attendance were former Chief R. Perry Beaver, Alexis Bible-Crosley, Interim Director of Trade and Commerce Authority, and Danna Minnick, Manager MCN Employment & Training.

### RES 2006

LAS VEGAS — The Reservation Economic Summit (RES) took place on Feb. 6-9. It is the largest and longest running National American Indian Business Conference and trade fair in the Nation. It is the premier gathering of American Indian entrepreneurs, tribal representatives, corporations, and government agencies.

This years RES was attended by Alexis Crosley of Muscogee Nation Trade and Commerce, Jackie Jackson the Vice Chair for Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trade and Commerce and Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise Board, and Judy Haumpy from Self-Governance.



TULSA — The American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma was initially funded by a grant to assist with economic development of American Indian people. Launched in 1990, the Chamber is actively involved in a number of programs to help build a stronger American Indian business community in Oklahoma.

The purpose of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO) is to assist American Indian businesses to expand and grow their business. The Chamber actively supports and nurtures well-planned, long-term business opportunities for members by providing organized access to public sector agencies and private industry.

The American Indian Chamber of Commerce provides an opportunity for Native American business owners to network among themselves to enhance business opportunities. The Chamber also acts as a collective voice for American Indian businesses on important issues.

The Chamber has a diverse mem-

bership roster consisting of American Indian individuals and businesses, non-Indian individuals and non-Indian businesses, as well as non-profit organizations whose work benefits American Indian people, tribes, and representatives from the public sector and corporate businesses.

Operating with a board of directors, the Chamber is a volunteer organization funded through membership dues and corporate sponsors. The Chamber meets monthly, elects rotating officers, and operates with committees. Monthly programs include speakers from major corporations or presentations on business improvement ideas from professionals in a variety of fields.

The American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma is a non-profit, 501(c)(6) corporation. Membership is open to both American Indian and non-American Indian business and individuals, and entitles a business or individual to be listed in our annual membership directory.

For more information, call 1 (800) 652-4226 or visit [www.aicco.org](http://www.aicco.org).

## Bush punishes BIA to pay for Cobell

Originally posted by [www.indianz.com](http://www.indianz.com)

The Bush administration has made an across-the-board cut to the Bureau of Indian Affairs budget, blaming the reduction on the Cobell trust fund lawsuit.

In an unprecedented letter to tribal leaders, associate Interior deputy secretary Jim Cason announced a \$3 million cut to the BIA budget. He said the administration failed to plan for attorney's fees awarded as part of the Cobell case even though the request for fees was pending for more than a year.

As a result, Cason said the BIA forked over \$2 million from an account used to "reimburse tribal attorney's fees" and an additional \$1 million came from an across-the-board rescission of tribal programs.

Additionally, the Office of Historical Trust Accounting and the Office of Special Trustee — whose budgets have exploded since the start of the administration while BIA funding has remained flat — contributed, Cason said. But their share only amounted to \$2.3 million, according to the January 26 letter.

Finally, the Department of Treasury — a named defendant in the suit whose officials were found in contempt of court and whose actions violated the trust responsibility — contributed about \$1.8 million, leaving the BIA to bear the brunt of the administration's failure to plan for the attorney's fees, which totaled \$7.1 million.

"As this interim fee was not a planned expense, the [Interior] Department considered a wide range of options," Cason, a non-Indian political appointee who has been acting as the head of the BIA for nearly a year, told tribal leaders.

The decision to make the cut and send out the letter drew strong criticism from Keith Harper, a member of the Cherokee Nation and an attorney with the Native American Rights Fund, a non-profit organization that is co-counsel in the case. He accused the administration of employing "divide and conquer" tactics in order to generate backlash in Indian Country against the Cobell plaintiffs.

"This administration — more than any other — has shown by their actions in trust reform and their actions on sovereignty issues to be the most hostile administration in Indian affairs since termination," Harper said in an interview yesterday.

Harper said he has spoken to a handful of tribal leaders since the letter was sent out. "They see it as a political, transparent attempt to divide and conquer," he said.

Tribal leaders have repeatedly accused Bush officials of punishing Indian Country by bleeding the BIA budget while boosting funds for OST. "For fiscal years 2005 and 2006, funding cuts to BIA has reduced full time staff for law enforcement, education and other vital programs," said Tim Martin, the executive director of the United South and Eastern Tribes, at a Senate hearing last July.

"The Cobell litigation and DOI's interpretations of requirements to meet court orders has absorbed resources and limited the ability to implement already under-funded programs," he added.

A bill introduced by the leaders of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and the House Resources Committee would ensure that funds used to settle the Cobell case and pay court and other fees would not come out of the BIA budget. Tribal leaders have endorsed this provision.

"Unquestionably, funds to settle the injustice against individual Indian money account holders cannot come from Indian programs," Jim Gray, the Chief of the Osage Nation of Oklahoma and the chairman of the Inter-Tribal Monitoring Association, said in his testimony.

Key members of Congress have agreed with the tribal views. The House Interior Appropriations Committee has repeatedly reduced funding for OST in light of the administration's increasing requests for money.

"The committee does not agree to the large increase requested in historical accounting and has shifted this funding to help offset the reductions proposed in the administration's request to Indian education and health care," the committee said in a report for the 2006 budget.

Previously, Cason warned tribal leaders to expect cuts in the BIA budget due to spending on Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. At the National Congress of American Indians annual conference last November, he said the agency was "holding back" five percent of its funds in anticipation of an across-the-board cut.

The issues of budget and the resources for the Cobell case will be considered in the upcoming weeks. On February 14, the Senate Indian Affairs Committee holds a hearing on President Bush's fiscal year 2007 budget request. On March 1, the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and the House Resources Committee will hold a joint hearing on the settlement of Cobell.



## HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

MCN Division of Health Administration

### Oklahoma's largest diabetes workshop

TULSA — The "Living with Diabetes" Workshop is Oklahoma's largest diabetes workshop and exhibit. This workshop offers free admission to the public. The workshop will be held Saturday, March 11 at the Tulsa Marriott-Southern Hills 1902 E. 71st St. The workshop is sponsored by the American Diabetes Association in partnership with Northeastern Oklahoma Diabetes Educators.

Johnnie Brassuell of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Diabetes Program would like to encourage all citizens to attend this event. For more information, call (918) 492-3839, ext. 6037.

### Revive a resolution

by CARLA BROWN

MNN Staff Writer

OKMULGEE — Now that we have entered the second month of the new year, so many resolutions often begin to fade out of our daily routines. 30 days prior, our best intentions and motivation set the stage for healthy new improvements to our personal lives. Whether it is a change in financial structure, relationships, eating habits, exercise or something else, some strong intentions some how began to fade away.

Mid-February is the perfect time to evaluate resolution progress and make realistic adjustments in order to keep a resolution going. Remember to stay realistic; everyone knows the quickest way to fall short of a goal is to set unattainable goals.

Diabetes fitness coordinator, Scott Robison, offers a few tips to adjust your daily routine to implement exercise. "Making the decision to place a high value on your health by making a health related resolution is a good first step," said Robison. "The biggest mistake most people make is trying to do too much too fast. Gaining the weight didn't happen overnight and it's impossible to lose the weight overnight. Start with small steps and changes and gradually increase over several months. Some good practices include telling a friend about the resolution so they can hold you accountable and offer encouragement. Logging exercise, food consumption, or steps taken each day can be good motivational tools."

Quitting smoking is another popular resolution often made. As you may already know, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health Centers offer smoking cessation classes to help with the quitting process. "Making a resolution means making a change in behavior," says Okmulgee cessation instructor, Janna Ross. "The barriers may seem to outweigh the benefits of quitting, but the encouraging thing about quitting smoking is that the health benefits are immediate! Relapses and setbacks can occur during the early stages of quitting but this never means you are defeated. Any change of a resolution is an ongoing process — not a one time event and requires time and energy and work."

### Elderly Nutrition Valentine dinners

The Elderly Nutrition Centers will be holding Valentines Dinners and events for tribal elderly. For dates, times and menus, contact the following nutrition centers: Dewar, (918) 652-3310; Okemah, (918) 623-3626; Eufaula, (918) 689-9191; Holdenville, (405) 379-5596; Coweta, (918) 759-7000; Muskogee, (918) 682-4904; Bristow (918) 367-2249; Sapulpa, (918) 227-0519; Wetumka, (405) 452-3131; and Okmulgee, (918) 756-2982.

## Women and heart disease

By Lawrence Vark CMO/DO

OKMULGEE — On Friday, Feb. 3, the National Wear Red Day, was observed showing support for women's heart disease awareness. In February 2003, *The Heart Truth* campaign, sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, introduced the Red Dress as the national symbol for women and heart disease awareness.

Since its introduction, the Red Dress symbol has served as a red alert to women about the need to find out their risk for heart disease and take action to lower it. Women and men across the country are adopting the symbol and wearing the pin to raise awareness about heart disease.

By wearing red, whether it was a red dress, shirt, tie, or Red Dress Pin, and encouraging your friends to do the same, people everywhere were sending a life-saving message: "Heart Disease doesn't care what you wear, it's the number one killer of women."

To help you plan, the National Wear Red Day On-line Toolkit is available at [www.hearttruth.gov](http://www.hearttruth.gov). It contains ideas and tools, including how to order the Red Dress Pin, to help you participate in the National Wear Red Day celebration.

People can make a difference. Just by leading a healthy life style, Americans can lower their risk of heart disease by as much as 82 percent. The steps to a healthy heart include, preventing or controlling key factors that increase the risk of its development, such as smoking, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, overweight/obesity, physical inactivity, and diabetes.

Heart Disease doesn't care what you wear, it's the number one killer of women. These women know the heart truth, and encourage you to find out your personal risk of heart disease. Every woman can take steps to lower her risk of developing heart disease. It's never too early or too late to improve heart health — even for those who have already had a heart attack. At any age, a woman needs to take action to protect her heart health.

What is Heart Disease? Coronary heart disease is the main form of heart disease. It is a disorder of the blood vessels of the heart that can lead to heart attack. A heart attack happens, when an artery becomes blocked, preventing oxygen and nutrients from getting to the heart. Often referred to simply as heart disease, it is one of several cardiovascular diseases, which are diseases of the heart and blood vessel system. Other cardiovascular diseases include stroke, high blood pressure, angina (chest pain), and rheumatic heart disease.

One reason some women aren't too concerned about heart disease is that they think it can be cured with surgery. This is a myth. Heart disease is a lifelong condition once you get it, you'll always have it. True,

procedures such as bypass surgery and angioplasty can help blood and oxygen flow to the heart more easily. But the arteries remain damaged, which means you are more likely to have a heart attack. Furthermore, the condition of your blood vessels will steadily worsen unless you make changes in your daily habits. Many women die of complications from heart disease, or become permanently disabled. That's why it is so vital to take action to prevent and control this disease.



What are the risk factors for heart disease? Risk factors are conditions or habits that make a person more likely to develop a disease. They can also increase the chances that an existing disease will get worse. Important risk factors for heart disease that you can do something about are: high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, being overweight, being physically inactive, having a family history of early heart disease, and being 55 or older for women.

Some risk factors, such as age and family history of early heart disease, can't be changed. For women, age becomes a risk factor at 55. After menopause, women are more apt to get heart disease, in part because their body's production of estrogen drops. Women who have gone through early menopause, either naturally or because they have had a hysterectomy, are twice as likely to develop heart disease as women of the same age who have not yet gone through menopause. Another reason for the increasing risk is that middle age is a time when women tend to develop risk factors for heart disease.

Family history of early heart disease is another risk factor that can't be changed. If your father or brother had a heart attack before age 55, or if your mother or sister had one before age 65, you are more likely to get heart disease yourself. While certain risk factors cannot be changed, it is important to realize that you do have control over many others. Regardless of your age, background, or health status, you can lower your risk of heart disease and it doesn't have to be complicated. Protecting your heart can be as simple as taking a brisk walk, whipping up a good vegetable soup, or getting the support you need to maintain a healthy weight.

Some women believe that doing just one healthy thing will take care of all of their heart disease risk. For example, they may think that if they walk or swim regularly, they can still smoke and stay fairly healthy. Wrong! To protect your heart, it is vital to make changes that address each risk factor you have. You can make the changes gradually, one at a time. But making them is very important.

Other women may wonder: If I have just one risk factor for heart disease — say, "I'm overweight or I have high blood cholesterol, aren't I more or less safe?" Absolutely not, each risk factor greatly increases a woman's chance of developing heart disease. But having more than one risk factor is especially serious, because risk factors tend to gang up and worsen each other's effects. So the message is clear. Every woman needs to take her heart disease risk seriously — and take action now to reduce that risk.

How do I find out if I am at risk for Heart Disease? The first step toward heart health is becoming aware of your own personal risk for heart disease. Some risks, such as smoking cigarettes, are obvious: — every woman knows whether or not she smokes. But other risk factors, such as high blood pressure or high blood cholesterol, generally don't have obvious signs or symptoms. So you'll need to gather some information to create your personal heart profile.

You and your doctor: A Heart Healthy Partnership

A crucial step in determining your risk is to see your doctor for a thorough checkup. Your physician can be an important partner in helping you set and reach goals for heart health. But don't wait for your physician to mention heart disease or its risk factors. Many doctors don't routinely bring up the subject with women patients. Here are some tips for establishing good, clear communication between you and your doctor: Speak up. Tell your doctor you want to keep your heart healthy and would like help in achieving that goal. Ask questions about your chances of developing heart disease and how you can lower your risk. Also ask for tests that will determine your personal risk factors.

Keep tabs on treatment. If you already are being treated for heart disease or heart disease risk factors, ask your doctor to review your treatment plan with you. Ask: "Is what I'm doing in line with the latest recommendations? Are my treatments working? Are my risk factors under control?" If your doctor recommends a medical procedure, ask about its benefits and risks. Find out if you will need to be hospitalized and for how long, and what to expect during the recovery period.

Be open. When your doctor asks you questions, answer as honestly and fully as you can. While certain topics may seem quite personal, discussing them openly can help your doctor find out your chances of developing heart disease. It can also help your doctor work with you to reduce your risk. If you already have heart disease, briefly describe each of your symptoms. Include when each symptom started, how often it happens, and whether it has been getting worse.

Keep it simple. If you don't understand something your doctor says, ask for an explanation in simple language. Be especially sure you understand how to take any medication you are given. If you are worried about understanding what the doctor says, or if you have trouble hearing, bring a friend or relative with you to your appointment. You may want to ask that person to write down the doctor's instructions for you.

West honored for helping tribal citizens

by CARLA BROWN

MNN Staff Writer

HOLDENVILLE — Community Health Representative, Winey West, was recognized on Jan. 25 for her heroic actions during the wildfires that caused devastation for families throughout Oklahoma.

Members of the Holdenville community and dignitaries from the Muscogee Nation, honored West for

saving the lives of tribal members during recent wild fires, while placing her own life in danger.



Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, right, and Larry Harrison, Seminole Assistant Second Chief, present West with a blanket.

"I was off duty the evening of Dec. 27 when I happen to notice the fire near some of my clients and I got worried so I went to check on them," said West. "I called Betty Tiger and warned her of the fire. By the time I reached her

house, she and her grandson were ready to go. With smoke all around her house, there was no time to save anything. I then picked up another client, Velma McGeely. The fire was 100 yards from her house. I am glad that people I saved are here, but it was God that sent me."

Winey West displayed courage and dedication to others in a time of need and for that the Nation is grateful. "I am proud to have someone like Winey West in our Community Health Representative Program," said Chief Ellis. "She has gone above and beyond and we really appreciate her."

## Creek citizen gets a new start with a new home

by JASON SALSAMAN  
MNIN Staff Writer

DEWAR — There were times when Sylvia Johnny's little old house would sway with the wind.

"I thought the thing was going to fall in on me," she explained. "It was very scary. I knew I needed help."

That help has recently arrived thanks to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division's Alternative Housing Program. Johnny, an elderly Creek citizen, had been on the Modernization of Privately Owned Homes Program but her home was beyond repair.

"We saw that her old home was not worth fixing, so we got in contact with the Oklahoma Correctional Industries and acquired more than ten modular homes for some of our needy citizens," said Housing Division Construction Services Manager David Proctor. The Oklahoma Correctional Industries is a part of the Department of Correc-

tions and provided the construction as well as the placement of the home. "We're so pleased that Ms. Johnny is in one of these new homes."

And the good news is, Sylvia is not the only one. "I've got more homes

scheduled," said Proctor. "One will be finished next week."

Chief A.D. Ellis was at her new home recently to present her with the keys. "This is what Creek Nation is all about,"



Chief Ellis, right, along with David Proctor, presents Sylvia Johnny with the keys to her new home.

said Chief Ellis.

"I want to thank Chief Ellis and everyone at Housing for my new home," she said.

One of the main things Sylvia likes about her new house is how spacious it is, with the rooms being significantly bigger. In her old home the kitchen just had one drawer, now it is furnished with plenty of beautiful cabinets. "It's almost like I have a new start, it's like a dream come true."

## Housing Authority of the Creek Nation offers home coverage for tribal citizens

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division, with financial assistance from the Housing Authority,



is now offering a new tribal service designed to provide property coverage for Creek Citizens who are renting or own their own homes.

The Community Shield Protection Program, created by Amerind Risk Management Corporation with funding by the Housing Authority of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation will offer protection against property damage caused by fire, storm, or other natural disasters. Not covered are flood, theft, and vandalism.

Offered are three basic coverages for homeowners and one for renters. Each coverage includes pro-

tection for personal property, personal liability, and emergency living expenses. The homeowner coverage also includes protection for the dwelling.

To be eligible for the program applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) Citizens, reside within the state of Oklahoma and use the dwelling to be covered as their principle place of residence.

The Housing Division and Amerind Risk Management retain the right to inspect the covered property, and require loss prevention efforts on part of the participants and does not assume responsibility for maintenance of the covered property.

The participant will be solely responsible for filing all claims directly to Amerind with claim payments based on replacement cost up to the coverage limits.

For more information about the Community Shield Protection Program, contact Lenora McPerryman at (918) 756-8504 or 800-259-5050, ext. 4117.



## HOME FIRE SAFETY

Cooking fires are the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Most cooking equipment fires start with the ignition of common household items (e.g., food or grease, cabinets, wall coverings, paper or plastic bags, curtains, etc.).

### FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Always use cooking equipment tested and approved by a recognized testing facility.
- Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended, and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (e.g. potholders, towels, rags, drapes and food packaging).
- Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of three feet (1 meter) around the stove. Keep pets from underfoot so you do not trip while cooking. Also, keep pets off cooking surfaces and nearby countertops to prevent them from knocking things onto burner.
- Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire.
- Never use a wet oven mitt, as it presents a scald danger if the moisture in the mitt is heated.
- Always keep a potholder, oven mitt and lid handy. If a small fire starts in a pan on the stove, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until it is completely cool. Never pour water on a grease fire and never discharge a fire extinguisher onto a pan fire, as it can spray or shoot burning grease around the kitchen, actually spreading the fire.
- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you and your clothing.
- If there is a microwave fire, keep the door closed and unplug the microwave. Call the fire department and make sure to have the oven serviced before you use it again. Food cooked in a microwave can be dangerously hot. Remove the lids or other coverings from microwaved food carefully to prevent steam burns.

### MAJOR CAUSES OF HOME FIRES

- #1 Cooking equipment
- #2 Heating equipment
- #3 Intentional
- #4 Open flame, ember, or torch
- #5 Electrical distribution equipment
- #6 Appliance, tool, or air conditioning
- #7 Smoking materials
- #8 Other heat source
- #9 Exposure
- #10 Child playing
- #11 Other equipment



Helping our Tribal Citizens Realize the Dream of Homeownership  
Providing help through the Mortgage Assistance Program

Many Native American families find it difficult becoming a homeowner due to the high out of pocket cost of obtaining a mortgage loan.

The Mortgage Assistance Program is designed to help our Tribal Citizens realize their dream of becoming a homeowner by providing financial assistance needed to acquire a mortgage loan to eligible applicants.

For More Information Contact:  
MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
P.O. Box 297  
Okmulgee, Ok 74447  
1-800-259-5050  
918-759-4137

The Mortgage Assistance Program is a program of the MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DIVISION OF HOUSING

To be eligible for the program, clients must meet the following requirements established by The Mortgage Assistance Program and by the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA).

- Be a first time home buyer
- Not be an existing or former Mutual Help Participant of NAHASDA Homebuyer Lease with option to Purchase regardless of a Housing Service Area.
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income published by HUD.
- Be 18 years or older
- Provide all requested information, Citizenship card for preference purposes, Social Security cards, and employment verification for each working family member on the required forms.
- Sign all required forms including the consent for disclosure of information.
- Be able to meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from an approved and certified financial lender.
- Preference given to Creek Citizens

Eligible clients may qualify for up to \$25,000

### Facts & figures\*

- In 2001, there were 117,100 reported home structure fires associated with cooking equipment, resulting in 370 deaths, 4,290 injuries and \$453 million in direct property damage.
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.
- Three in every 10 reported home fires start in the kitchen – more than any other place in the home.
- Two out of three reported home cooking fires start with the range or stove.
- Electric ranges or stoves have a higher risk of fires, injuries and property damage, relative to usage, than gas ranges or stoves, but gas ranges or stoves have a higher risk of fire deaths.

\*From NFPA's Home Cooking Fire Patterns and Trends, January 2005

## Koweta announces open house

COWETA — The Koweta Indian Community announces an open house to be held at their community center to introduce their new embroidery enterprise, Koweta Designs Unlimited. The function of this new enterprise will include reproducing the Muscogee seal and other designs for hats, jackets and other clothing apparel.

The date for the open house has been set for Mar. 4, from 1 to 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome to attend. The Community Center is located at 30901 E. 141st St. Those interested can reach the center by phone at (918) 486-7764.

## Salt Creek annual dinner and hog fry

HOLDENVILLE — On Mar. 4, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Holdenville Indian Community Center will be hosting their annual Salt Creek dinner and hog fry. The menu includes: salt pork, hog meat, beef and chicken, as well as fry bread and other usual dishes and deserts. Taffy (with onions) to be served when available. Adults eat for \$7 and children under 10 eat for \$4. For more information, contact Lyle Deere at (918) 906-063.

## U.S. Department seeks names

MUSCOGEE — The U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Office of the Special Trustee for America Indians (OST), may have money for you, or for someone you know. OST is responsible for managing income collected from the use of trust assets or awards for individual Indian Trust beneficiaries and tribes. OST invests more than \$60 million in Indian Trust accounts for over 48,000 people whose whereabouts are currently unknown due to outdated or incomplete contact information.

To submit or request more information, contact the Trust Beneficiary Call Center at (888) 678-6836, ext. 0.

The following is a continued list from the January issue of the *MNV*: Annetta R. (Harjo) Lyons, Annette Stover, Bertha L. (Tiger) Boyland, Bertha R. (Cully) Jessie, Betty L. Derr, Betty McCombs, Billy D. Baker, Billy J. Fisher, Billy Porter, Brian J. Narcomey, Brian R. Jones, Carl R. Noon, Carla J. Wasson, Carol A. (Hood) Schenck, Carole Taylor, Caroline V. Beaver, Ceateta Harjo, Charles C. Walker, Charles D. Taylor, Chas R. Coleman, Cheryl A. (Coonhead) Scott, Cheryl Dunn, Christy L. Whitfield, Cecil Venus, Clifford G. Lewis, Clinton Deere, Conney Hill, Connie E. Cummings, Connie Cannon, Cornelius E. Taylor, Cornelius L. McIntosh, Curtis Carpitche, David H. Morgan, David L. Jackson, David L. Spencer, David Manley, David Powell Jr., Dawn R. Johnson, Dennis L. Baker, Dion Francis, Donna M. (Beaver) Crenshaw, Dorothy J. Bean, Douglas W. Harjo, E. Cully, Earl King, Eddie L. Lindsey, Eddie Williams, Edward L. Bender, Edward Whitlow, Ellen B. (Francis) Garza, Estelen Secondine, Ester (Harjo) Billy, Eta (Wiley) Conner, Eugene Brown, Eugene Tolbert, Eva Bell Hull, Everett W. Evans, Faith A. Revis, Faylan J. Unah, Felicia Walker, Felix Walker, Frances A. Manley, Frank A. Manley, Frank Johnson, Fred Lindsey, Freeling A. Porter, Gary E. Majors, Gary Yahola, Geneva Tiger, Gerry S. Shawnee, Glenn Davis, Gregory A. Switch, Gus R. Porter, H. Cully, Harley Revis, Helen B. (Hohlahta) Tatum, Hellen Evans, Ida J. (Johnson) Adams, Imogene Taylor, Inella Wood, JC Lena, J. Cully, J. Walker, Jace L. Williams, Jack J. Derr, Jack Bearhead, Jackie Gibson, Jackson P. Knight, Jackson Lowe II, Jacob G. Brown, James L. Johnson, James

M. Beaver Jr., Janice Leclair, Jason A. Jones, Jason M. Switch, Jd Hill, Jennie (Tiger) Reed, Jennie Canady, Jerald D. Ripley, Jeremiah L. Jones, Jerry J. Derr Jr., Jerry Walker, Jerry Washington, Jesse R. Henneha, Jim T. Berryhill, Jimmie R. Lena, Jimmie Geber, Jimmie Lena Jr., Jimmy B. Derr, Jimmy Mitchell, Jimmy Tebe, Jo Ann Coonhead, Joann Fish, Joe M. Scott, John P. McClish, John W. Supemaw, Jonh Beaver, John Scott Jr., Johnny Zachery, Johnson Daniel, Jonas L. Proctor AKA Janice Proctor, Jonas Harjo Jr. Joni A. Whitehorn, Joni Ardele R. Whitehorn, Joseph W. Villerreal Jr., Josephine (Baston) Ritchie, Joshua L. Wolf, Joyce A. Bear, Juanita (McIntosh) Transue, Juanita R. Watashe, Judy M. (Powell) Walker, Julie A. (Baker) Willis, Kenneth Fisher, Kenneth West, Larry D. Todd, Lavena S. Dunn, Lena McElroy, Lenora S. Narcomey, Leo King, Leon Cully, Leona (Harjo) Zink, Leonard W. Fish, Leonard W. Harjo, Leonard Morgan, Leroy Cully, Levi L. Cummings, Levonne M. (Noon) Stokes, Linda Asbury Chisholm, Linda Barnett, Lisa D. Coonhead, Little Nokose Bear, Little Tommy Johnson, Lorena (Harjo) Spencer, Lou Ann Porter, Louis Holahla, Louise (Tiger) Smith, Lucinda Coker, Lucinda Harjo, Lucrecia Taylor, Lucy A. (Tebe) Harjo, Lula (Moore) Sogee, Lydia McIntosh, Lynn (Murphy) King, Mari G. Taylor, Mark W. Porter, Martha (Berryhill) Haynes, Martha J. (Sullivan) Howard, Martha M. Dazzler, Martha Fairbanks, Mary (Gray) Leist, Mary C. (Tiger) Leetka, Mary G. Osburn, Mary L. Miller, Mary Fish, Melissa (Long) Deere, Melissa A. Wallace, Melissa S. Meashintubby, Melvina (McIntosh) Lannine, Michael A. Deere, Michael W. Joshua, Michael W. Whitehorn, Mildred (McCombs) Cummings, Mildred Barnett, Mitchell Barnett, Myrtle

(Jones) Jacobs, Myrtle Lois Johnson, Naomi Eades, Nathan F. Harjo, Nellie Hallum, Newman Sullivan, Nikki Ann Reed, Nina (Fordker) Clay, Nora (Burgess) Ingram, Pamela Cully, Patricia M. Harjo, Patricia Larney, Paul D. Tebe, Paul Jones, Peggy Y. (Yarholer) Webb, Rachel (Hawkins) Goslin, Rachel H. (Fixico) Paddlety, Ramona M. Johnson, Randall S. Scott, Raymond Holahla, Raymond Rash, Reba J. (Johnson) McDermott, Regina Holahla, Regina Roberts, Rex B. Murphy, Richard B. Larney, Richard L. Jack, Richard Hailey, Richard Harjo, Robert T. McGeeley, Robin L. Neel, Robyn G. Walker Jr., Roger W. Stroud, Roman L. Fife, Ronald Yahola, Rowena E. Johnson, Rowena M. Johnson, Roy Wood, Rozetta (Cotanny) Evans, Rufus Buckley, Ruth White, Sally A. Williams, Sam D. Tiger, Sam Brown Jr., Samuel R. Johnson, Shirley Henderson, Simon N. Harry, Solomon Field, Sonya L. Joshua, Stanley G. Battese, Star Narcomey, Stella L. Larney, Stephen Waller, Stoddard Sullivan, Taylor Tiger Jr., Ted Martin, Teddy Harjo, Terry L. Narcomey, Terry Cooper, Thelma (Smith) Stanford, Thomas R. Cummings Jr., Tracey D. (Wallace) Harjo, Tusekia Harjo, Valerie Harjo, Vella J. Morris, Vera (Thompson) Davenport, Vernon buck, Vickie, Joshua, Victor W. Porter, Vikki R. Harjo, Virginia (Scott) Green, Virginia A. Stroud, Vivian (Cornelius) Brake, Walette West, Waylon G. Unah, Wilbert Coker, William B. Robertson, William Bernard Sr. I missing in conv., William D. Throckmorton, William K. Taylor, Willie P. (Evans) Walker, Winfred F. Harjo, Wisey J. Cully, Wynema (Toney) Newton, Wynema J. Williams, Wynema L. (Fixico) Williams, and Zora A. (Frank) Kemble.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Division of Health

#### Van Driver-Muskogee-ENP (Part-time)

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Incumbent must possess a current food handler's permit. An excellent driving record is required. Valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.

#### Van Driver - Okemah - ENP (Part-time)

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Incumbent must possess a current food handler's permit. An excellent driving record is required. Valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.

#### Van Driver - Okmulgee-ENP (Part-time)

High School diploma or GED equivalent is required. Incumbent must possess a current food handler's permit. An excellent driving record is required. Valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.

#### Van Driver-Twin Hills-ENP (Part-time)

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Incumbent must possess a current food handler's permit. An excellent driving record is required. Valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.

#### Clinician - Behavioral Health Services

A Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology or related field. One (1) year relevant experience in counseling. LPC, LMFT or LCSW licensure/certifications valid in the State of Oklahoma is preferred. Incumbents who do not possess valid licensers/certifications as specified must be actively working toward obtaining this licensure/certification.

#### Clinical Director - Behavioral Health Services

A Ph.D. or Psy.D. in Clinical or Counseling Psychology from an accredited college/university. Five (5) years experience as a licensed psychologist. Five (5) years of managerial or supervisory experience. Current Licensure by the State of Oklahoma as a Psychologist or Health Services Psychologist is required.

#### Staff Dentist - Sapulpa

DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and a certificate from an accredited General Practice Residency program. Or, a DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Licensure or ability to be licensed to practice dentistry in a state, territory or commonwealth of the United States, or in the District of Columbia. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition

to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) additional years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements.

#### Coding Specialist

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. A bachelors or Associates Degree in Health Administration or Technology is preferred. Three (3) to five (5) years relevant experience dependent upon the education qualifications stated above. Certification as a CPC or CCS-P is required. Certification from an accredited coding certification program is required. Incumbent must possess a valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.

#### Physician

Candidates must be a graduate of an accredited college/university of medicine receiving a M.D. or D.O. and must possess a current State of Oklahoma license to practice medicine, a DEA license, Medicare provider agreement, and ACLS certification. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements. Incumbent must possess current State of Oklahoma License to practice medicine and/or be able to obtain this license prior to employment with the Health System.

#### Patient Information/Third-Party Billing Supervisor

A Bachelor's Degree in Health Information Technology, Accounting, Finance or related field is preferred. With a Bachelors Degree, two (2) years of related experience is required. Education preference stated above may be substituted with ten (10) years of relevant experience. Additional professional certifications may benefit incumbent.

#### Phlebotomist - Eufaula

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. One (1) year specific related experience in a medical laboratory facility is required. Incumbent must possess valid certification in phlebotomy.

#### Billing Technician

Associate Degree in accounting or a related business field is preferred. One (1) year of relevant experience is required with an Associates Degree. Four (4) years of rel-

evant experience may be substituted for the educational requirements stated above.

#### Scheduling Clerk - Okemah

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Completion of a program or training in Medical Office Technology or a related field is preferred. A minimum of one (1) year relevant experience is preferred. Valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and must be insurable.

#### Pharmacist - Eufaula (Part-time)

Incumbent must be a graduate of an accredited college/university of Pharmacy or is a Public Health Service (PHS) Pharmacy Officer. One (1) year of relevant experience as a Pharmacist or PHS Pharmacy Officer. Incumbent is required to possess a current Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy license or current license as required by the PHS Commissioned Corp.

#### Nurse Practitioner - (Float Status)

Successful completion of an accredited course of study specifically designed for training professional Mid-Level Providers. Three (3) years of relevant experience. Course of study or program completed by the incumbent must be approved by a nationally recognized professional medical body such as the AMA, AAMC or other body established for this purpose.

#### Staff Dentist - Coweta (3 Positions)

DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and a certificate from an accredited General Practice Residency program. Or, a DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Licensure or ability to be licensed to practice dentistry in a state, territory or commonwealth of the United States, or in the District of Columbia. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) additional years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements or a new graduate preferably within an HIS preceptorship (internship).

#### CHS- Technician - Sapulpa

High School diploma or GED equivalent is required. One (1) year relevant experience in a medical billing or related field. Incumbent must possess a valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.

#### Utilization Review/Discharge Planner - CNCH

An Associates Degree in Nursing (ADN) received from an accredited nursing program or Bachelor's Degree in healthcare or social service related field is required. A Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (BSN) received from an accredited nursing program is preferred. A minimum of one (1) year of relevant experience is required. As applicable, current State of Oklahoma Nursing License is required.

#### Cook's Aide - Muskogee (Part-time)

High School Diploma or GED equivalent and one (1) year related work experience. Incumbent must possess a valid food handlers permit and a valid Oklahoma State Drivers License and be insurable.

#### Medical Lab Technician-Okemah

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Successful completion of 60 semester hours of academic credit necessary to satisfy requirements of the position as well as a structured curriculum in Medical Laboratory Techniques at an accredited institution is preferred. Two (2) years of relevant full-time Laboratory experience performing highly complex testing as a Technician Trainee may be substituted for the educational requirements. Certification as a MLT through the ASCP is preferred.

#### Chief Operating Officer (C.O.O.)

Bachelor's Degree in Business or related field is required. A Masters Degree in same area of study is preferred. Two (2) years relevant experience gained through working in a tribal setting.

#### Optometrist - Coweta

O.D. Degree received from an accredited college of Optometry. A minimum of one (1) year relevant experience. Valid License issued by the State of Oklahoma to practice Optometry.

#### Optometry Technician - Okemah

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. One (1) year related experience in an Optometry Clinic is preferred.

#### Management Analyst

Bachelor's Degree in a relevant field is required. A Masters Degree is preferred. Relevant experience preferred, none required.



## How should our tribal college be?

by Dr. Myra Alexander-Starr

OKMULGEE — This is the first of a series of articles in commemoration of the first year of the College of the Muscogee Nation. Mvskoke Etlvhw Nakokv Mvhakv Svhlwecvt. The first article is written by Dr. Myra Alexander-Starr, President of the College. Future articles to be published in the *MNN* are: March, Significantly Events of the College by consultant Dr. James King; April, Thoughts from the College Regents' Chairperson Ramona Mason; May, American Indian Leadership by Regents' ex officio member Dr. Pete Coser; June, Law by Regents' Vice-Chair Dr. Blue Clark; July, The Role of a Board Member by Regent's Secretary Sharon Mouss; August, Untitled by Regent Member Pande Ramirez; and September, Preparing your child for College by Regent Member Robert Bible.

How should our Tribal College be?

The Mvskokvike have had hundreds of years in higher education. The fact that on Aug. 28, 2004, the National Council approved the law and codes to bring the College of the Muscogee Nation into existence, and that Chief A.D. Ellis signed his approval on Sept. 1, 2004, was not a beginning of Mvskoke higher education. Instead, it was its restoration.

After the American Civil War until Oklahoma statehood, we regularly sent students to United States Colleges. These were students who had completed primary and boarding school curriculums in the Nation. Records show that they attended schools like Wooster College of Ohio, Drury College and William Jewell College in Missouri, the University of Arkansas and many other colleges and universities. The city of Muscogee was once called the "Athens of the West" when it held at least five colleges before the turn of the century, Indian University (now Bacone), Kendall College (Now the University of Tulsa), Spaulding Institute and two colleges for black students.

It may not be surprising that this proliferation of higher learning in the Muscogee Nation appears during the time of the solid front of challenges to its sovereignty emanating from the highest levels of the United States government in illegal legislations, right down to the local level with illegal immigrations, and challenges to land and property rights. All parts of the Muscogee government had a need for citizens, to not only be fluent in Mvskoke, but also be able to speak English at sophisticated levels. The Muscogee and other Indian Territory peoples recognized the urgent need to be able to deal with these external encounters. They knew a prepared generation was the solution, a preparedness that could only come from higher learning.

U.S. Indian Agent John Tuft's surprise when he visited Indian Territory is noted on page 95 of the 1880 Report of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs, "Many of the boys and girls are being sent to the States to be educated at the expense of the people. The result is a surprise to the stranger who meets so many well educated among the nations."

The Muscogee program was known as, "Youth in the States," and ended when the Muscogee treasures were taken over by the United States in the early 1900's as part of the so-called Declaration of Independence. The United States had to continually contend with the Mvskokvike, who frankly held the absolute dominance in their homeland in what is now known as the southeastern United States. In fact, ultimately, the U.S. had to rely on questionable actions to finally gain our lands.

What made our confederacy so strong? What sustained us generation after generation, eon after eon, so that our aged were healthy, our medicine was found to be on par with the newly arriving Europeans, and our governance sustained vital communities?

Initially, our response might be, we were strong because we were astute in governance, diplomacy and medicine; and we understood trade and commerce. My answer is because the spirit of learning permeated our communities.

When the Europeans came, they found people who valued learning and whose learning systems ran deeply and had everything to do with the sustenance of the community. In fact, we had long learned that the key to that sustenance was every individual understanding and sharing a role in that responsibility.

The Europeans, however, didn't recognize what they saw. The Conquistadors were barely literate — as schooling for their populations hardly existed. Unless one intended a devoted life to church administration or its spiritual sustenance, it was felt there was no need for extensive schooling. After all, their congregations engaged in farming and so their individual developmental needs were seen as nonessential. In fact, the Conquistadors depended on church-trained scribes to write about the events of their journey.

Had those early Europeans been more observant, they would have found the Mvskokvike, equally dependent on the agriculture, but whom, as people, wholly respected:

1. Well being of their citizens.

2. Governance and diplomacy.

3. Trade and Commerce.

The deep respect had engendered a system of learning suited exactly to sustain those vital parts of Mvskoke life. Seventeenth and eighteenth century's more educated European observers describe this learning structure as being "layered". It would be easy to say that within the etlvwa was found a structured learning community and its instruction was carried out within the context of family, community and confederacy.

From the play of the hopuetakuce, to the teaching of the heles hayv, to their medical students; to the serious young interns of the hvtemalvike entovp — watching and learning governance form the perspective of the reality of council deliberations; it is still a system to be admired and certainly worthy of our consideration centuries later.

That brings us to today. On Nov. 29, 2004, at a talk at Haskell Indian Nations University which carried on C-SPAN, Wilma Mankiller was asked, "How should an American Indian Student with a College degree be?" "What kind of knowledge should they have?"

She answered, "they should be able to believe in themselves and in their own people. They should be able to believe in their own thinking and be able to trust themselves. They should be able to think about themselves and their people in a good way."

Taking the lead from that question, I would like to ask this same question of Mvskoke citizens and administrators of our world today:

1. How should a graduate of the College of the Muscogee Nation, Mvskoke Etlvhw Nakokv Mvhakv Svhlwecvt be? Send us your answers by email or by regular mail, College of the Muscogee Nation, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447, or drop the answer by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation mailroom addressed to the College. Let us hear from our employers who will hire our graduates; let us hear from parents who hope great things for their children; and let us hear from our students whose dreams of grand exploits surely must be taken seriously.

2. Indeed, one more question. What should our considerations be as we build our college and set our expectations? How should a college of and for the Muscogee people be?

### Let Us Hear From You

Send to: College of the Muscogee Nation, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447 or sed by email to [mstarr@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:mstarr@muscogeenation-nsn.gov); or drop off at the reception area of the Muscogee Nation Complex:

1. How should a graduate of the College of the Muscogee Nation Be?

2. How Should a college of and for the Muscogee people be?

## Native American scholarships

### Prospective college students

OKMULGEE — The Higher Education Department is currently accepting written requests for applications for the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 academic year.

Prospective students must be planning to attend a nationally accredited 2 year Junior College, 4 year College/University or Graduate School, possess a CDIB (undergraduates) and Creek Tribal Membership cards; apply for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) through the university financial aid office; and return completed applications before the closing date June 1 and June 15. Post-Graduate application closing date is October 15.

Current high school seniors and prospective students may send written requests with name and address for applications. Applications for the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 terms will be mailed February 2006. The Higher Education staff encourages you to plan early for college. Send requests to: Creek Nation Higher Education Department, P O Box 580, Okmulgee, Ok 74447 or by e-mail at: [cdavis@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:cdavis@muscogeenation-nsn.gov) or [jothill@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:jothill@muscogeenation-nsn.gov). For further information, call (918) 732-7688 or 7689.

### Simon Estes Foundation announces scholarship availability

TULSA — The Simon Estes Educational Foundation, Inc. is offering college scholarships to high school seniors graduating in the class of 2006. Applications for the Simon Estes Merit Scholarship are currently available through area high school counselors, and on the internet at [www.seef.org](http://www.seef.org). The deadline for application submission is 5 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2006.

Each scholarship is \$2,500 per year and is annually renewable for the four-year term of undergraduate study, subject to available funding and the student's performance and adherence to scholarship guidelines. The \$2,500 scholarship (\$1,250 per semester) is paid directly to the university of the scholar's choice to be applied toward tuition, books and fees.

For the last 23 years, the Simon Estes Educational Foundation, Inc., a multiracial, nonprofit Oklahoma organization, has been committed to promoting higher educational opportunities for area graduating high school seniors by providing scholarships made possible through charitable contributions. Special consideration is given to African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic; and Native American students, however, all applicants exhibiting

scholastic excellence, financial need, and high moral standards are eligible regardless of race, religion, sex, or ethnic origin.

Thus, all high school seniors who meet the following requirements are encouraged to apply:

- A documented financial need
- 3.5 GPA, or higher on a 4.0 scale
- A well-defined motivation to pursue higher education and a personal sense of values
- Maturity and sense of purpose essential to a demanding educational experience
- Permanent residence within 30 miles of Tulsa metro

For more information, contact the Foundation at (918) 583-0500 or visit [www.seef.org](http://www.seef.org).

### Headlands Indian Health Careers Program accepting applications

OKLAHOMA CITY — The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center is now accepting applications for its 2006 Headlands Indian Health Careers Program, to be held June 4 through July 29 on the OU Norman campus.

American Indian high school seniors and first-year college students who are interested in pursuing a career in the health professions are encouraged to apply for this intense eight-week enrichment program offering mini-block courses in calculus, chemistry, physics and biology. These courses are designed to increase students' knowledge and prepare them for the required college-level math and science coursework in pre-health programs.

Students will gain experience in the laboratory, strengthen their communication and writing skills, and attend interactive presentations at the OU Health Sciences Center colleges of Public Health, Allied Health, Medicine, Pharmacy and Nursing. Field excursions to health clinics and hospitals also are included.

Travel, lodging and meal expenses will be provided for each student accepted into the program. Applications for the Headlands program can be found online at [www.headlands.ouhsc.edu](http://www.headlands.ouhsc.edu) or by calling (405) 271-2250. Application deadline is Mar. 15. The Headlands program is sponsored by the Oklahoma Native American EXPORT Center, with funding from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health.





A message from Senior Service Manager



Tribal Police Force gives State of the Nation



State of the Nation Address



# American Indian Festival of Words 2006

TULSA — The American Indian Festival of Words 2006 will be held Mar. 11 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Central Library located at Fourth Street and Denver Avenue.

The festival celebrates the history, culture, arts and achievements of American Indians.

One of the highlights of the festival is the American Indian Festival of Words Author Award. Previous recipient of the award in 2001 was Joy Harjo. This award recognizes literary contributions of American Indian authors and is given in odd numbered years.

Another award to be given, is the Circle of Honor award. This award is given to an individual to recognize his/her outstanding lifetime achievements. The 2006 recipient of this award will be Wilma Mankiller. The recognition

ceremony will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. on the second floor of the Central Library, Main Stage.

After the ceremony, there will be various activities to attend.

Children's crafts such as stamping book, weaving and puppets will be available from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on the first floor of the Aaronson Auditorium.

American Indian Portrayed in Old-Time Radio Shows will be presented by Steven Woods depicting negative American In-

dian radio characters such as Tonto and Straight Arrow. This event will take place at 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. in the Lecture Room, first floor.

Activities that will take place on the Main Stage, second floor will be: Cherokee National Youth Choir, 11 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.; American Indian Storytelling featuring Will Hill and Jehnean Washington, noon until 1 p.m. and Indian Intertribal Club of Tulsa Dance Troupe, 1:30 p.m. until 2 p.m.

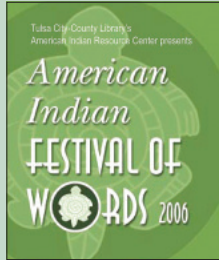
American Indian Storytelling will be

presented at 11:30 a.m. until noon and American Indian Hand Games will start at 1:15 until 2 p.m. at the Plaza Room, second floor.

American Indian Demonstrations will be available from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and will consist of finger-weaving belts, moccasins, Cherokee baskets, corn-husk dolls and searching the Dawes Rolls. All these demonstrations will be held in the Balcony area, third floor.

This event is free and open to the public. If you are hearing-impaired and need a qualified interpreter, call the library 48 hours in advance of the program.

For more information, contact Teresa Washington Runnels at (918) 596-7398 or visit their website at [www.tulsalibrary.org/aic](http://www.tulsalibrary.org/aic).



## Update on Mvskoke Language Program by Norma Marshall

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Language Program has been in existence since July 11, 2005. Our language is be-

ing taught in the public school system through four pilot project schools. The public schools receiving Mvskoke language instruction are: Dustin, Hanna, Wetumka, and Holdenville—Thomas Elementary and Reed Elementary, which includes the Pre-Kindergarten class located in the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center. Five language speakers have been certified by Principal Chief Ellis to be instructors in the Mvskoke language. Sylvia Fay Baker instructs the Mvskoke language in the Hanna Public Schools. Minnie Proctor instructs in the Dustin Public Schools. Mary Frye instructs in the Wetumka Public Schools. Mitch Jack and Ashe Deere instruct for the Holdenville Public Schools.

The Mvskoke Language Curriculum is still being developed to align with the Oklahoma State Department of Education's curriculum. The Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS objectives) are specific to age appropriate and grade appropriate levels. The language Program Manager and the Curriculum Coordinator are working with the language speakers to set goals and objectives and to teach the Mvskoke cultural components to the students in the public school classroom.

The Mvskoke Language Program Staff and language speakers have presented the Mvskoke Language Fair in

the four pilot project schools. Guest presenters during the language fair were: Diabetes and Exercise, Mrs. Irene Cully;

Tobacco Prevention, Mr. Marcus Proctor; and the Community Health Representatives, C H R staff.

The language fair has been successful according to teachers and students at the pilot project schools. The *Mvskoke Puppet Show* received accolades from both teachers and students. The *Mvskoke* puppets spoke in the Mvskoke language to the students. The language immersion portion also came in the *Cufe Story* and the *Cufe Song*.

Wetumka Mvskoke Language students presented a short skit in the Mvskoke language on how to make frybread. This was another immersion segment of the language fair. Student participation has been high in both the elementary and the high school.

Citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Indian communities have voiced an interest in the language fairs. Some of the citizens have attended the presentations at the public schools. One community was hopeful of serving lunch to the language program staff and speakers and guest presenters.

Speakers are utilizing local community resources to incorporate Mvskoke cultural information into the classroom curriculum. The cultural component is uniquely Mvskoke. The love of the Mvskoke language is the one priority that we all share.

way 97). Bring your own lawn chairs. The host ground will be Sam Proctor and members of Tallahassee Wvskoke.

For more information, contact the Indian Education office at (918) 246-1583.



photo submitted

Pictured are Mvskoke Language Program Fair presenters (l to r): first row, Minnie Proctor, Christine Roberts, Sylvia Fay Baker, Winney West and Irene Cully; second row, Mary Frye, Lewis Tulsa, Cindy Gilks, Kay Massey and Curtis Frisco; and third row, DeLois Ralston, Norma Marshall, Millie Colbert, Mitch Jack and Ashe Deere.

## Native American History Series Native Americans and Capitalism by Patrick E. Moore

Prior to the European intrusion into the Americas in 1492 the European economy was stagnate. There was not enough gold or silver to cast as coins for circulation necessary to facilitate large scale trade and promote the lending essential for the development of capitalism.

The African gold coast via Timbuktu supplied gold and silver for the European market place, however, there were too many middlemen extracting a share and the overall quantity was limited. For instance by 1570 the trading center, Naples had only 700,000 gold and silver coins in circulation, but by 1751 there were 18 million gold and silver coins in use. France had 120 million francs in circulation in 1670, but by 1770 over two billion francs were in use.

During the early exploration of the Americas a single mountain "Cerro Rico" was found being mined by Indian miners in the Andes mountain range and of course true to form the Spanish Conquistadores immediately enslaved the miners and conscripted all silver and gold for the Spanish King and Queen.

"Cerro Rico", meaning rich hill, produced over 85% of all the silver taken from the Americas to Spain during the colonial period. It has been estimated that enough silver was mined from "Cerro Rico" to build a sterling silver bridge from Central America to Madrid, Spain. The city that sprang up around "Cerro Rico" had a population of 160,000 by 1650 and rivaled Paris and London in size.

After 1492 Spanish explorers were not concerned with finding silver, they were obsessed with the discovery of gold. In 1520 war criminal Hernando Cortez conquered the Aztec Empire and demanded gold from Montezuma, torturing and killing thousands of Aztecs including the next heir to the throne Cuauhtemoc.

Tons of golden idols, chains, artifacts and bars were delivered to Cortez, who continued to execute the Aztec royalty. The Aztec initiated a counter attack and the Spanish decided to retreat taking their plunder with them. On a summer night in 1520 Cortez's Spanish soldiers loaded with gold and moving slowly across the Tlacopan causeway, a over water bridge, were ambushed by Aztec soldiers in what was the bloodiest battle of its time. Over one-fourth of the conquistadores were killed outright and many

more fell into the lake and drowned because of the gold in their packs and pockets.

Francisco Pizarro, another Spanish criminal, seized Inca Emperor Atahualpa in 1532 and demanded a room full of gold as ransom. The Incas, who dearly loved Atahualpa, scoured the Empire, striped their temples of gold and jewels, donated personal jewelry and in a short time managed to fill a large room with the largest ransom ever paid. Pizarro then killed Atahualpa and began a village by village search for more gold.

The conquistadores searched from the Andes in South America to what is now Kansas in North America for gold. To find the gold of the Americas today you must go not to a bank or museum in the Americas, but rather to a museum or church in Europe. Between 1500 and 1650 200 tons of gold was forcibly taken from its Native American owners and added to some European King or Queen's treasury. The contemporary value of this stolen gold is 2.8 billion dollars.

It was only after the Spanish had looted all the readily available gold that they turned their attention to silver and it was silver that turned the global economy around. Never before had so much silver coin been in the hands of so many different people. Individuals had huge amounts of silver coin and the economy changed into a true money economy with thousands of people able to accumulate large fortunes and capital that rivaled the Kings and Queens of Europe.

The silver from "Cerro Rico" made capitalism possible and a reality. Before "Cerro Rico" there just simply was never enough silver available to mint the necessary number of silver coins to spark capitalism and a world economy. Sixteen thousand tons of silver entered Europe through customs agents in Seville, Spain. This stolen silver alone had a value of 3.3 billion dollars.

The introduction of so much silver coin into Europe from 1500 to 1700 was responsible for the downfall of Kings, Queens and court aristocrats resulting in the eventual destruction of the feudal system. Silver helped destroy the Spanish, Dutch and British as world wide and European powers resulting in a shift of European power to Germany by the late 1800's.

## A message from Senior Services Manager

by Jackson Barnett

Dear Mvskoke people,

Another report on another senior outing. This time to Jackson and Cleveland, Tennessee. The purpose of this trip was two fold. To visit the Pinson Mounds archeological park, and to attend and take part in a recognition and dedication of a site on the Tennessee river where some 9,000 Cherokee and Creek people were placed to wait to be transported across the river to begin their "Trail of Tears" march to Indian territory, the present state of Oklahoma.

A total of sixteen seniors were selected this time for the trip to Tennessee.



From Left: Sidney Lee, Jackson Barnett & Frank Harjo preparing to leave for Tennessee in the Mvskoke Van

We departed Okmulgee at about 8:15 a.m., Thursday morning, Feb. 2nd. Our first destination was Jackson, Tennessee. On the way to our final destination, Cleveland, Tennessee. Jackson is located northeast of Memphis. As we passed through Memphis, I thought perhaps we might see Elvis Presley standing by the highway waving to us, but no such luck.

Jackson is the home of Pinson Mounds archeological park. We arrived there around 6:00 p.m., got settled and in our rooms, our purpose was to rest up from traveling all day and to meet with a reception party at the Mound Museum early the next morning. After a Continental breakfast at the motel bright and early, we arrived at the Museum at 8:30 a.m. and were received warmly by the curator and other personnel. Some of the reception party included:

- Mack Prichard, Tennessee State Naturalist and Former State archaeologist
- Bill Lawrence, Tennessee State Parks Archaeologist
- Tim Poole, Pinson Mounds Park Manager
- Mark Tolley, President, Tennessee Ancient sites Conservancy
- Chief's daughter, Sandra Ellis and her son living in Jackson, Tennessee
- Melba Eades, Creek Citizen involved in Indian cause
- William Anderson, Board Member, Tennessee Ancient sites coinsure

We toured the Museum for about an hour then assembled in a theatre type auditorium. We were told about the mounds located there, their antiquity, origin, and the ancient people that may have built them.

We were visited by a very special person at the museum, Sandra Ellis, our Principal Chief's daughter and her son, A.D. we all enjoyed visiting with her and getting to know her. I told Sandra that we would take A.D. as payment for our making the long journey there, she was not agreeable to that.

Next we were taken on a guided tour around the park. The first Mound we stopped at and toured is named Saul's Mound and Overlook, as we were told, is the second highest Mound in the U.S. some seventy-two feet high. Some of us dared to climb the Mound, some of us did not. As is the nature of non-Indians, stairs were built on the back side of the Mound. Good idea for reaching the top and viewing the area, but it takes away from the beauty of the Mound. I managed to reach the top with much huffing and puffing. I felt like I had just ran the 880 yard run like I did at Bacone College. Nice view of the surrounding area of the other mounds. Those of us who climbed the Mound included Robert Jones, Ben Lowe, Smiley Barnett, Liz Yahola, Sidney Lee, and Rebecca Lindsey, maybe the eldest of us all.

We visited other sites then were taken to a very special place. A perfect circle constructed of stones and earth, some one hundred yards in diameter located in dense woods. So far no one has been able to determine the purpose of this circle. They could only guess it was used for religious and ceremonial things.

In the early afternoon, we were on our way to Cleveland, Tennessee, our final destination. After an hour of driving we stopped in Savannah for lunch. We enjoyed a good buffet meal of pond-raised catfish. Their owner talked with us in the parking lot just before we left. When we told her who we were and where we were going, she asked if she could go with us.

We arrived in Cleveland, Tennessee around 7:00 p.m. got settled in; had dinner and rested. The activities were to begin around 9:00 a.m. Saturday at Birchwood School. We arrived just before 10:00 a.m. and some of us had break-

fast while most of us made our rounds of the vendors out in the hallways. The program consisted of knowledgeable people of the area, history, and other things. We from Creek Nation were scheduled to follow a Cherokee story teller at 11:00 a.m. the master of ceremonies made a special introduction of us as a "very special group from Oklahoma". While making my presentation I spoke to the people in both Mvskoke and English. I recognized our National Council Representative, Robert Jones, the former senior princess, Fannie Barnett and the current reigning Senior Princess, Mulsie Long. I then recognized the other members of our group as they made their way up to the stage. We sang two Creek songs, then Mulsie Long sang "Amazing Grace" in both Creek and Cherokee.

I concluded my talk as it was almost time to travel to Blythe's Ferry to dedicate the marker on the Tennessee river. The ceremony began at noon, many dignitaries spoke, National Council Member Robert Jones, Mulsie Long, Fannie Barnett and I made final comments. A final song was given by folk singers, Tom Morgan and Lynn Haas to conclude the dedication ceremony at the river side. I was thankful to be there taking part but at the same time glad to be finished as it was very cold. The wind coming off the Tennessee River was bone-chilling cold with snow flurries. (The inscription on the dedication marker appears at the bottom of this article.)

We then returned to Birchwood school for lunch. After lunch we assembled in a fourth grade classroom where we were given an update on efforts on work concerning Indian people and Indian related projects. It strikes me strange and I cannot understand that all these projects and work is being carried out by non-Indian people.

In the afternoon we went on the Sandhill crane watching trip back to the same river but further up. Some of us went walking and did manage to view the hundreds of birds on Hiwassee Island. We did not stay but an hour due to cold weather. The Tennessee weather would take some getting used to, I believe.

Saturday evening after dinner, a very interested couple from around Cleveland had secured tickets to a performance of a play "Alice in Wonderland". Some nine or ten of us took advantage of this offer and attended. It is geared for younger ages, but being young at heart we attended and enjoyed it. Fannie Barnett was the first name drawn for a door prize at the play.

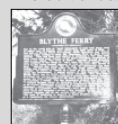


The senior group in front of the Pinson Mound in Tennessee

Sunday morning we departed Cleveland at 7:00 a.m. including all the rest and fuel stops en route and regaining the hour we lost going east, the return trip took almost thirteen hours. But I heard not one complaint from my senior people. They were good ambassadors and represented their families and our Nation well. I am very proud of them.

I thank the powers that be for a good and safe journey back to our home country. Until next time. MVTO and Sincerely,

This Marker that was Dedicated Reads as follows:



One of the worst acts of "man's inhumanity to man" took place when an entire race of peoples were driven from their lands in 1838. It was here at the Blythe Ferry that approx. 9,000 Cherokees and Creeks camped while waiting to cross the Tennessee River on their forced removal. They had been held captive in stockades a few miles back. Many books have been written on the heart wrenching description of what is now called "The Trail of Tears." Butrick's Journal describes their condition in the camps as "very much like brute animals - being down on the naked ground exposed to wind and rain - like droves of hogs." Butrick also states, "But not only the Cherokee - the dear Creeks and Seminoles have fallen by the same means, fictitious treaties." He speaks of "Nanny as a slave" so this shows the diversity among the attachments. A mental picture of what happened here at Blythe Ferry can be drawn from these excerpts. Oct. 16th, 1838 - "10 o'clock AM," "We have only succeeded in getting some twenty wagons across the river - propitiators of the Ferry - are determined to retard all exertions." J. Powell. The last detachment crossed Nov. 12, 1838. "I reached Blythe's Ferry on Saturday, Nov. 10th - found the great body of Mr. (Peter) Hildebrand's detachment of emigrating Cherokees quietly encamped - about twelve wagons had crossed - at dawn four boats were put in requisition and continued - until dusk - close of the day about sixty one wagons across - this morning before 12 o'clock eighteen wagons and all the people were over "To Winfield Scott."

This Park is dedicated in memory to these peoples. May it serve as a touchstone for future generations.

## Grandparents Support Group

"Grandparents Raising Grandchildren"

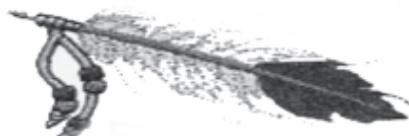
Where: Okmulgee County Health Department

When: March 2, 2006  
(The group will meet the first Thursday of each month)

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Presented by:  
Okmulgee County Health Department  
Child Guidance Clinic  
Contact: Kathy Cole  
Phone: 918-756-6324

## New Traditions Clinic



Mariah Lee (Muscogee Creek) 2121 S. 125th East Ave.,  
CEO/Owner Suite 103  
Located inside TK Wolf Tulsa, OK 74129  
and Associates Building (918)439-9060



## Church Activities

### Oklahoma State Indian Evangelism Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma State Indian Evangelism Conference will be held Mar. 2 through 4 at Glorietta Baptist Church. The church is located at 7308 S. Western (1 block north of I-240 on Western).

Conference speakers include: Alan Quigley, Evangelism Specialist, BGCO; Ron Hutchcraft, Ron Hutchcraft Ministries; Jim Hamilton, Executive Director, Dakota Baptist Convention; Ledtkey McIntosh, North American Mission Board and Vern Charette, Vern Charette Ministries. Music will be led by Jimell Badrey, Colorado Springs.

The conference will run Thursday evening Mar. 2 through noon Saturday Mar. 4. Special workshops will be held on Friday. Daytime sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. Friday & Saturday. Evening sessions begin at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Meals will be served on Friday and Saturday.

Workshops include: "Empowering Laity for Evangelism" by Jim Hamilton (part I will be in the morning and part II will be in the afternoon); "Women Reaching Women" by Kelly King; "Evangelism Through Small Groups" by Emerson Falls; "Evangelism Through Recreation" by Sean Rochelle; "Evangelism Followup" by Ledtkey McIntosh; "Exploring Justification" by Vern Charette; "Evangelism Through Church Planting" by Eddie Lindsey and Gary Hawkins and "Reaching Youth" by Rollee McIntosh.

For special lodging rate information, call the GBC office at (405) 632-3365.

### Native American Baptist Youth and Young Adult Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Native American Baptist Youth and Young Adult Conference will be held at Glorietta Baptist Church on Mar. 10 and 11.

The speaker will be Vern Charette and music will be provided by Archangels. The theme is "Power to Impact".

Pre-registration is \$7 or \$10 at the door. Make check or money order payable to Glorietta Baptist Church, Attn: Sue Fish, 504 Elmcrest Drive, Norman, OK 73071.

Friday, Mar. 10 the schedule includes: registration begins, 4:30 p.m.; music videos, 6:30 p.m.; worship service 7 p.m. and after glow, fellowship together after the service.... Ice cream social.

Saturday, Mar. 11 the schedule includes: morning, 9 a.m. morning celebration, 10 a.m. breakout session I, 11 a.m. breakout session II, 11:50 a.m. music videos and 12 p.m. worship service; afternoon, complimentary cookout following the Noon Worship Service, Recreation time after lunch through 5 p.m. and enjoy dinner with your group; and evening, 6:30 p.m. music videos and 7 p.m. worship service.

For more information, contact Delana Deere at (405) 878-3306 or Donna Bear at (405) 706-1196. Hotel reservations can be made at Quality Inn for \$42 per room (tax exempt) if paid for with a church check or a tax letter is shown. The Quality Inn is located at 7800 CA Henderson Blvd.

### Youth Rally 2006

SEMINOLE — The 7th Annual New Creations Youth Rally 2006 will be held Mar. 16 through 18 at Little River Mission.

Youth ministering to youth: diversity of word ministry by ministers from across Oklahoma. Come and unite with the young generation in one mind and one accord to praise and learn about the Lord. Many music styles include: contemporary, blues, rap, praise and worship, and rock. Everyone welcome. For youth of all ages.

For more information, contact Helen or Phillip at (405) 382-6905 or Redman Wolf at (405) 382-3771.

### Women's conference

WEATHERFORD — The Western Oklahoma Indian Baptist Women's Conference will be held Apr. 7 and 8 at the Family Life Center, First Baptist Church. The church is located at 1510 East Davis Road.

Bible study presenters will be Charlene Pickup, Madeline Kervin, Dara Theopre and Beverly Watson. Music leaders are Delana Deere and Kelli Komahchee.

This year's conference theme is "How does Christian values apply to home, work and church."

The conference will start Friday at 6 p.m. with registration, snacks and a mini concert. Saturday morning will begin at 8:30 a.m. with bible study, breakout sessions, lunch, crafts and will end at 3:30 p.m. All ladies of all ages are invited to attend. No child care will be provided.

For more information, contact Kathy Deere at (405) 447-1247 or (405) 816-7874 after 8 p.m. or e-mail at abstneshw52@yahoo.com.

## Pastor's Corner

Wesley Berry, Crosstown Church  
Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Have you ever been accused by your spouse, your child or maybe a co-worker of not paying attention to what they were saying? Your response to their accusations, was, "Yes I was listening!" and they replied, "But did you hear me!" The difference, is of great interest. One can listen and not comprehend or pay attention what is really being said. Yet on the other hand you can hear what is being said and understand it transparently. Now, with all that said, Did you listen or did you hear, President Bush's State of the Union speech, Tuesday Night, January 31st? President Bush said to the nation that, *America is addicted to oil!*

What did President Bush mean when he said we were addicted to oil? First of all let's look at the word, *addiction*. In Webster's dictionary, addiction is defined as the condition of being addicted to something or to allow oneself to be completely controlled by something without self restraint. The one thing I've noticed about any type of addiction, is the appetite for the addiction surpasses every boundary, every restraint, every conviction. There is nothing the addict will not do to satisfy his or her addiction.

Let me share with you just how addicted to oil we really are. According to the Energy Information Administration, which happens to relay the official energy statistics from the U.S. Government, the EIA reported that with U.S. oil production declining and demand increasing, U.S. net oil imports are climbing steadily. In fact at a very alarming rate. Some early forecasts have projected that the United States foreign oil imports will be somewhere between 58% up to 65% and possibly much higher than that. This may be some of the reason we have to play political games, with countries that are the top suppliers of crude oil to the United States, like Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Mexico and at times even Canada.

Listen, the United States of America is the highest oil consuming nation in the world. We consume somewhere around 20,517,000 barrels of oil per day, the next highest oil consuming nation in the world is China, they consume 6,684,000 barrels of oil per day. More than three times more oil consumed by the United States than the next country on the list. Our dependencies on foreign oil is a must for survival. Especially when you realize that during 2004, the United States produced around 7.6 million barrels of oil per day, but had only produced 5.4 million barrels of oil per day in the first eight months of 2005, which was a 50 year low.

Here is where it gets interesting. Peak Production is a term used in the petroleum industry that somewhat gauges the remaining availability and productivity of a particular well or oil field. Experts say that the oil productions of a particular well or oil field tends to increase its volume until it reaches around 50% of its maximum production ability, at that point it has reached peak production. From this moment the oil is produced at very slow pace and at a higher cost for the drilling companies, and therefore the cost is pass down to us at the gas pumps.

Petroleum experts conclude that out of forty four oil producing nations, twenty three of these nations, which include the United States, China, Russia, England, and Mexico have already reached peak production. This doesn't mean these countries have no oil, it simply means the oil they have left, is very expensive to produce. The United States reached peak production in the mid 70's, we were the first country in the world to do so. The world is divided up into 7 oil producing regions, North America's region was the first to reach peak production. I don't have the time or space in this article to go into further details concerning the other nations or the other 6 regions that have reached peak oil production. If someone is interested in this information, all you have to do is type in oil crisis or peak oil production on your google search and begin researching. I believe it is vitally important for us to understand where we're at in Bible Prophecy and not to be ignorant of the season we're living in.

The situation has become so dire that Matthew Simmons, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Simmons & Company International, a Houston based investment bank that specializes in the energy industry and one of President Bush's Energy Advisors, acknowledged the situation has become so desperate, that the oil crisis has become the world's biggest and serious question. In August 2003, Mr. Simmons was asked in an interview, If peak oil production concerns should become part of the public policy debate, He responded, "it is past time, as I have said experts and politicians have no plan B, they never expected this to happen." When asked is there any solution, Mr. Simmons responded, "I don't think so, the only solution I can tell you is to pray!" This interview took place in August 2003, He said in the best of circumstances there will be no crisis for maybe two years. At that moment gasoline prices averaged nationally, \$1.42 a gallon, a barrel of oil around \$29 a barrel. The man knew exactly what he was talking about, almost to the day, August 2005, we were in crisis. The national average for a gallon of gasoline in August 2005, was \$2.52 a gallon and a barrel of oil, \$62.90. In 2004, Mr. Simmons said at a convention dealing with peak oil, that with the latest projections, oil could be as high as \$162.00 a barrel within ten years. It sounds to me, the United States isn't the only nation in the world, *Addicted to Oil...* Join me again next month to hear the conclusion of this article. Part 2, What does Bible Prophecy say about the oil crisis, *Just be Blessed...*

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## BIRTHDAYS

### *Kyla Fixico*

OKMULGEE — Kyla celebrated her eighth birthday on Jan. 31, with family and friends.

Kyla is the daughter of Christina Tiger and Thomas Fixico of Okmulgee.

Maternal grandparents are Rosalie Deerinwater of Bristow and Kop and Rita Tiger of Okemah.

Paternal grandparents are George Fixico and Fay Holatha of Okemah and Joyce Hale of Okemah.

Kyla has one brother, Tayten, age 4.



### *Lance Geebon Nicholas Gouge*

HENRYETTA — Lance Gouge celebrated his fourth birthday on Jan. 3 at his home with a Shark Tales theme. Those in attendance were family and friends.

He is the son of Thompson "Geebon" and Jenna Gouge of Henryetta.

Maternal grandparents are Johnny Boyce of Tulsa and Karen Robertson of Beggs.

Paternal grandparents are Tom Gouge of Anadarko and the late Lutie Sie Gouge.

Lance is the great grandson of Sylvia and Carl Lee of Beggs, and the late Woodrow Gouge and Rhoda Fields.



### *Kalil Lewis*

OKMULGEE — Kalil celebrated his eighth birthday on Feb. 2 with a Scooby Doo theme. He celebrated with family and friends.

He is the son of Kelly Lowe and Jeremy Lewis.

Maternal grandparents are Brenda and Tony Lowe of Dustin.

Paternal grandparents are Walter Lewis, Jr. of Henryetta and the late Irene Lewis.



## ENGAGEMENTS

### *Beach & O'Dell*

MUSKOGEE — Robert and Rowena Beach of Muskogee announce the engagement of their daughter, Carissa to Jeff O'Dell. He is the son of Larry and Laura O'Dell of Caney, Kansas.

Beach is the granddaughter of the late Narcissa Wilson. She is a graduate of Muskogee High School and will graduate from Connors State College in May. In the fall she will attend Northeastern State University. Carissa is currently employed at Wal-Mart.

Jeff is the grandson of the late Harmon Wiley. He is a graduate of Haskell Indian Nations University and the University of Oklahoma. He is employed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Both attend Fife Memorial United Methodist Church in Muskogee.

The wedding is planned for June 3 at the Memorial Chapel at Bacone College in Muskogee.



## MUSCOGEE PEOPLE

### *Jessica Evans*

BALAD, IRAQ — Jessica Kiah Evans has been stationed with the 21st Cargo Transfer Company at Camp Anaconda, Balad, Iraq since October 2005.

She is the daughter of Albert and Phyllis Chupco Platta of Mesclero, New Mexico and Herbert St. John of Vian.

Jessica is the granddaughter of Lucille Chupco of Seminole and Joyce St. John of Vian.

Evans and her husband, Jason attended Sparten School of Aeronautics in Tulsa and are enlisted in the United States Army. The couple was stationed in Ft. Lewis, Washington before she was deployed.



### *Britny & Cam Patterson*

DURANGO, Colorado — Britny and Cam Patterson graduated side by side from Ft. Lewis College on Dec. 17, 2005.

Britny received a Business Administration degree with a concentration in marketing.

Her activities include: Vice-President of Rotoract Club of Ft. Lewis. She attended the 100th anniversary of the Rotary Club in Chicago, Illinois with 40,000 other members from all over the world in June 2005. Britny also studied abroad in Europe in 2003, with 24 other students. She did a marketing internship in the summer of 2005 with First National Bank in Durango.

Britny is active in the following: various community service efforts; member of the women's and co-ed ice hockey team; womens and co-ed softball team; dodge ball team; roller hockey team; snowboards in the winter months and she loves sky-diving and volleyball.

She plans to attend Graduate school for a Masters in Business Administration in marketing research.

Cam received an English degree. She made the Dean's list with a 3.75 GPA. Cam enjoys her work-outs in the mornings and swimming. She also loves too sky-diving in Utah.

Patterson plans to attend law school.

They are the daughters of Stan and Cathy Patterson.

Grandparents are Hattie Phillips Stone and Gladys Stone Mason.

Patterson's are members of the bird clan and Tulsa Tribal Town.



### *Timothy Buckshot De Armon*

MORRIS — Timothy De Armon recently signed a letter of intent to play football for Missouri Southern State University. The signing event took place in the Morris High School Board Room on Feb. 1. Those in attendance of the signing were: Tim De Armon, father; Hunter De Armon, brother; Shelena Smith, sister; Joe and Mary De Armon, grandparents; Larry Crenshaw, head coach; Larry Bookout, coach, and Buck Ewton, high school principal.

Timothy received the All-State offensive Lineman Award class 3A 2005, as well as the Morris Lineman of the Year, 2004-05, and District 2004-05 Lineman of the Year. Buckshot also has received awards for Outstanding Heavyweight Lifter, 2004-05, District and Outstanding Field Event, Discus and shot put 2004-05 district.

Timothy received the All-State offensive Lineman Award class 3A 2005, as well as the Morris Lineman of the Year, 2004-05, and District 2004-05 Lineman of the Year. Buckshot also has received awards for Outstanding Heavyweight Lifter, 2004-05, District and Outstanding Field Event, Discus and shot put 2004-05 district.

De Armon is the son of Tim De Armon of Morris and Brenda Messer of Okmulgee. He the grandson of Edna Rabbit Messer of Okmulgee and Joe and Mary De Armon. Timothy is employed at the Okmulgee Wal-Mart Supercenter where he is a cashier.



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# Tribal Police Force gives State of Nation

"We have specific jurisdiction in all tribal land."

"All of my officers are state certified."

By GERALD WOFFORD

MNN Staff Writer

OKMULGEE — Every entity, group, or organization relies on the proper function of its administration. The policies, rules, and laws of it are properly enforced, and carried out. For if not, it will be nothing more than perhaps, a good idea with no substance, and no life.

For the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the organization that performs these tasks are called 'Lighthorse'.

Lighthorse are the police force of the tribe, and help to define the Creeks as a viable, and sovereign nation.

Jack Shackelford serves as the Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Lighthorsemen and makes sure his force is ready. Shackelford has taken the reins in June of 2005, the tribal law force unit has grown from nineteen to twenty-seven certified officers.

The Lighthorsemen and their empowerment is not confined to tribal property, they are also 'cross-deputized' with state law enforcement as well.

"We have specific jurisdiction in all tribal land," says Shackelford. "Restricted trust land in which we provide all of the police services for all of our casinos, and travel plazas as well. Basically we have cross-deputization agreements with six out of nine counties so we can act on state side or tribal side."

It is with the title and responsibility of cross deputization that the Lighthorse shows just how much they are a part of law enforcement. Shackelford explains just how important cross deputization is and its function. "For example, when we (Lighthorse) come in touch with a non-Indian in our gaming facility, unless they commit a major felony, we can only civilly site them, such as for possession of drugs. When you civilly site them, you basically write them a citation and turn them loose. On the state side with the cross deputization

agreement we have, it gives us the right to arrest them. To confine them in jail and process them through the state system." Shackelford points to just how important this is, especially in places such as Tulsa, where the city climate can be

a Federal Law Enforcement training Academy in New Mexico and when they come back here, then they get state certified as well.

Shackelford points to the explorer program, which instructs Creek youth in

there are times and situations when you need a female officer to handle the situation."

As the Lighthorsemen do their duties, many times the general Muscogee (Creek) public may still be unfamiliar with them. Shackelford wants tribal citizens to know that the Lighthorse are here to serve.

In a memo sent to Principal Chief A.D. Ellis on Jan. 25, the following is a summary of Major Activities for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department.

- Provided Security for the 62nd annual NCAI Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Oct. 27-Nov. 6, 2005.
- Assisted Muskogee County in executing warrants on Nov. 17, 2005.
- Counter Drug Operations were conducted in Muskogee County Plaza & Casino on Dec. 8, 2005.
- Co-hosted a "Shooter in School" training at OSU-Okmulgee on Dec. 19-20, 2005.
- Assisted Federal Agents executing a Federal Warrant on a subject that is known to sell drugs at the Muskogee Travel Plaza and Checotah Bingo Hall on Dec. 21, 2005.

• In the 1st qtr of the FY'06 there were total of 447 calls/complaints answered. Which resulted in 137 citations issued and 198 arrests made.

• In the month of January, 2 forfeited seized vehicles was sold at two separate auctions for a total of \$18,400.00. Monies from these vehicles were transferred into a forfeiture & seizure account and is used to purchase uniforms & supplies for our Law Enforcement Officers.

• Creek Nation Tribal Police is Cross-Deputized with seven of the nine counties within the Creek Nation Jurisdictional Boundaries. To better combat crimes in and around the Creek Nation Casinos, Plaza, and Properties. Since June '05 we've acquired Cross-Deputization with Tulsa City, Okemah City, and Wagoner County

• Increased Patrol Officers from 19 to 27, Increase Patrol presence in all Creek Nation Tribal Casinos and Tribal Trust and/or Restricted lands/properties.



Lighthorse Officers (l to r) Tammy Checotah, Richard Fixico, Ricky Lindsay, and Jack Shackelford.

sometimes more prone to such activity. All of my officers are state certified," says Shackelford. "The State

**Shackelford wants tribal citizens to know that the Lighthorse are here to serve them.**

Agency is called 'CLEAT' which stands for Council Law Enforcement Education and Training', it is what the state has set up to certify all the officers in the state to become law enforcement officers, you have to go through 'CLEAT' certification. Besides this certification, Shackelford stresses the special training his unit also goes through in New Mexico. "Some of them have attended

law enforcement. The Lighthorse unit also boasts of a voluntary reserves unit which are on hand to assist in emergency situations and events such as the Creek Nation Festival. Shackelford also sees the program as an investment procedure, given the amount of recruits from both programs. "It gives you a resource pool to look for prospective candidates for the agency. You get a chance to bring them in and see how they are going to work. If they fit the needs that you have and if they do, and you have an opening. You know what type of person they are and you get to see their work experience as well.

Shackelford is proud of the officers he has on the unit. Although the title of Lighthorsemen may have to seek some type of title change. The tribal police force currently has one female officer. Her name is Tammy Checotah. Shackelford says that Checotah is a very capable officer and hopes to see more join a historical unit, that has been predominantly male oriented. "I would like to hire some more (female officers),

## Department of Interior Annual Law Enforcement Report October-November-December-2005 & January 2006 Report Turned In

Part One Offenses	Total #Offenses	Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means	Alcohol Related	Drug Related	Offense Committed by Juveniles
Child Abuse	1	0	0	0	0
Domestic Abuse	4	1	0	0	0
Robbery-Knife (edged weapon)	1	0	0	0	0
Robbery-Strong-arm	1	0	0	0	0
Burglary-Forcible Entry	2	0	0	0	0
Larceny-Theft not Motor Vehicle	24	1	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft-Auto	3	0	0	0	0
Arson-Other	2	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Other than Part One Offenses					
Forgery/Counterfeiting	14	0	0	0	0
Fraud	2	0	0	0	0
Vandalism	8	0	0	0	0
Weapons-Carrying Possessing	4	0	0	0	0
Drug Abuse-Self or Manufacture	2	1	0	2	0
Drug Abuse-Possession	19	10	0	19	0
Drunkenness	3	3	2	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	4	2	1	1	0
All Other Offenses	97	36	9	27	2
Suspicious Person Reports	1	1	1	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>2</b>
Traffic DWI	104				
Other Service Incidents/Assists	130				

# State of the Nation

Section B, Page 6

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

February 2006

## STATE OF THE NATION

January 28, 2006



Speaker Tiger welcomed audience in the Mvskoke language. "To our tribal members, our relatives and to our friends, we thank you for joining us in this 14<sup>th</sup> session of National Council of Muscogee (Creek) Nation," said Tiger. "On this day a new chapter enlist of our proud nation. Through use of technology, all tribal member throughout the world had the opportunity to listen and to watch exercise their sovereign rights or fight as provided to protect an uphold thanks to the lesson the on this day. The echoes of voice of our ancestors who would lead us on this day, our past tribal leaders will be with us in this. Our journey with the house of kings in our other welcome to all, welcome to the great Muscogee (Creek) Nation. In tradition of our people to recognize and to give thanks, we call upon Reverend Amon Harjo to offer a creek hymn and invocation."

Current Speaker Tiger presented an award to former Speaker Thomas Yahola for his service to the thirteenth session. Second Speaker Barnett presented the same award to former Second Speaker Richard Berryhill. Sergeant-At-Arms Anthony Notaro presented the same award to former Sergeant-At-Arms David Nichols. Speaker Tiger honored, recognized and presented a special plaque and a pendleton blanket to CHR Winey West for her effort and action during the wildfire disaster in Hughes county. West went to the area affected by the fires to rescue some of the elders she knew lived in the area. Both of these families homes were destroyed by the fires.

Speaker Tiger introduced Chief Ellis. Chief Ellis took the podium. His speech is as follows. *(Translated by MNN reporter Ruth Bible)* It's good to see great people that work for the Nation and that do good things. It is an honor to be here with Council, citizens and our guests. This day is a very historic one. One thing we need to do is work together.

For this meeting, I went to the Council in December asked for appropriation to broadcast this worldwide on the internet. We didn't have appropriate technology, but our Communications and MIS pulled this together in 30-days. Today it is broadcast worldwide for our citizens to view from their homes and/or designated community centers and can be viewed at later dates from our website archives.

You don't have to go to Washington D.C. or these big BIA meetings to see how good we're doing. I have a lot of information I asked my departments to furnish. I had a bushel of paperwork submitted, so I picked out the highlights of 2005.

But I can tell you how good of shape we are in. Gaming is an anchor for our revenue here at Creek

Nation. We have three Tribal

halls: Tulsa, Muscogee, and Okmulgee. Five community halls: Bristow, Okemah, Eufaula, Duck Creek, and Checotah. Revenues from these casinos for 2005 will be \$58.6 million increasing it by 20%. Our net profit is expecting to top \$65 million.

The late Chief Cox introduced a bill for gaming that put 40% of our gaming into a permanent fund. It was one of the greatest things we could have done. I came on the National Council in 1990 when we had \$200,000 generated from Bingo. Today, we have \$93 million dollars and this summer we'll top over \$100 million in our permanent fund.

- Our salary and payroll for this administration is \$15 million a year.

- We paid approximately \$10 million assorted taxes.

- I got an e-mail yesterday from my son in Fort Worth asked "is it true that Indians don't pay taxes?" (crowd laughs) I gave him an answer right back.

- Every year we have an audit from a firm in Edmond, OK and last fall they notified us that we were \$45 million richer than this time last year.

- In 2005 new expansion of Tulsa casino included 600 new machines.

- In 2006 our new casino on riverside will be under construction. The projected date of completion will be in May, 2007

- This will be the biggest casino across the river. There is a river walk on the southwest side. This is a big development that will generate more jobs and more income for our nation.

- In May 2006, we will have a \$90 million clinic. It will employ about 130 people in behavioral health care, pharmacy, primary care, and dental and eye care facilities.

- Fountainhead was purchased by Lake Eufaula. We have set up a committee to investigate and decide what to do with this property.

- In 2005, our complex lobby underwent renovation. We expect to have an open house in about a month or two.

- The new Head Start building is under construction and it will house 60 children, 18 staff members, and a storm shelter for 225 people.

- The first tribal authority, a mass transit authority with a new bus system, will transport approximately 300 people per week, including nationwide.

- In 2006, the transit authority plans to purchase a new 60-passenger highway coach for travel nationwide.



- Completion of the old dental building that was renovated for BIA offices was completed.

- In 2006, we plan occupancy of the 40-acre industrial park. We have our streets laid out and graveled.

- A Force Account Construction building is pain to be built. It will house the crew for emergency work orders for our housing occupants.

- Plans to start construction for a new Attorney General building in 2006.

- A new Lighthouse Headquarters building.

- We have bids out for sewer and water line to be finished in the summer of 2006.

- The Housing Division is buying houses.

- In 2006, a legislation for constructing a multistory office building downtown on Hwy. 75 is planned. It will provide office space for Administration.

- Construction of an all-purpose basketball gym to begin. HUD approved a \$800,000 grant. Within 60 days, construction will start construction on a new facility.

- Plans for a Fire Station at Industrial Park in 2006.

- Plans for a City of Okmulgee sub station in 2006.

- Plans for new construction for a new VASO office.

- The sewer system negotiations with city of Okmulgee for Omiplex and industrial park 40 and 200 acres is almost complete.

- We have casino expansions for Checotah, Eufaula, Okemah, Duck Creek and Holdenville. We have six communities that make a lot of money; one wrote out a check for 41 million to share the fortune with the 12 communities with nothing; Dustin, Twin Hills, Dewar that cannot scrape up \$200 to assist our families that share in this nation. We are suppose to be giving and caring people I suggest we share with everyone.

- The Okmulgee Indian Community is planning for an information center and smoke shop at the site of the old Okdale school south of town.

- We have three new elder nutrition center Wetumka, Kellyville and Weleetka. At present, we have the largest nutrition system in the nation. We have the largest nutrition system in the nation, which makes us bigger than Navajo and Cherokees. We serve 12,000 people a month.

- Housing Division Ron Qualls has built or purchased 52 new homes in 2005. Completed 1,000 of emergency repairs and 61 homes rehabilitated.

- We now have a new Mortgage Assistance program offered

statewide for homes built. Every Creek citizen in Oklahoma is eligible for up to \$25,000 closing cost to build their own construction. Financing with no interest on \$50,000 loan would make you only owe \$25,000. Citizens with restricted land will also have a program. We want to house all Creeks. Another program was designed to build manufactured homes in Okemah and Wetumka. There's a market for approximately 700 homes. We will provide them to our citizens, allowing us to make our own profit. Another appropriation is through NAHASDA.

- Senior Services Jackson Barnett has taken 15 culture trips to various states. 182 of our elders went to these different site locations, Tennessee, Washington DC, Kansas, and New Mexico. In 2005, National Council appropriated two-16 passenger vans for these trips. We have a Security Officer James Proctor, he and Barnett speak the Muscogee Creek language.

- Social Service's has 13 different programs, such as Family assistance, Burial assistance, and LIHEAP assistance. Social Services has served over 3,700 families with assistance.

- JOM: According to the 1994 Act of Congress 12 years ago, the U.S. is obligated under federal law to educate Indian students. Now JOM provides an additional 18 scholarships. They also host the Miss Muscogee Scholarship pageant. We have a Muscogee Language Department with Norma Marshall, with pilot projects in Dustin, Hanna, Wetumka and Holdenville. Our goal is to develop a Muscogee language curriculum to align with the Oklahoma Department of Education and have it adopted by the State Department of Education. We have five speakers certified. We also have a distant learning plan for the next 10 to 20-years.

- Children and Family Services has 194 children in foster care in Oklahoma. There is \$114,000 in tribal foster care assistance.

- In 2006, Adult Protection Domestic Violence is planned.

- In 2005 the Lighthouse, lead by Jack Shackelford, Chief, increased staff from 19 to 27. Recently our officers were Cross Deputized in 7-of-9 counties, most importantly in Tulsa, where a lot of drugs and activity happen in our casino. In the past, it was complicated, now we turn them over to Tulsa Police Department where they are fully prosecuted.

- Mike Flud, Chief of Staff stated that we have 60 plus students in

SEE ADDRESS - B7



**CHRISTOPHER REID CHANEY**  
LYNNVILLE, TENN. — Funeral services for Christopher Chaney were held Dec. 23 at Williams Funeral Home with Reverend Bruce Peltier officiating.

"Buck" was born July 15, 1968 to Ben Chaney and Delores "Dee" Reid Coffman. He was an auto repair tech by trade and attended New Song Baptist Church. Chris was a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, was of the Bear Clan, and a member of the Tuskegee Tribal Town.

Chris was preceded in death by: his grandparents, Edgar and Dora Colbert Chaney.

Survivors include: his father, Ben Chaney of Okmulgee; his mother, Deloris Coffman and daughter Gina both of Lynnville, Tenn.; son Kevin of Summertown, Tenn., and numerous other friends and relatives.

Interment was held at the Polk Memorial Gardens.

**EDNA RUTH CRITTENDEN**

STILLWELL — Funeral services for Edna Crittenden were held Jan. 28 at the Alice Wheeler Home with Jerry Baker and Newman Littlebear as speakers.

Ruth was born August 19, 1933 to Wysena and Annie (Brown) Bucktro. She was a homemaker who loved growing plants, sewing, and doing Native

American beadwork; but her greatest love was caring for her children and grandchildren.

Mrs. Crittenden was preceded in death by: husband, George Crittenden; her parents; six siblings, Wade, Alvin, and Tony Bucktro, Suzanne Wilson, Alice Wheeler, and Hazel Tiger; and one grandson.

Survivors included: five children, Jack and George Crittenden, both of Stillwell, Annette Gann of Stillwell, Leona Baker and Rhonda Jenison, both of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; one sister, Phoebe Jones of Claremore; eleven grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and a host of other family and friends.

Interment was held at the Bucktro Family Cemetery.

**BETSY JEANETTA FACTOR**

OKMULGEE — Funeral services were held for Betsy Factor Jan. 31 at Big Cussetah Indian United Methodist Church with Rev. Nelson Scott Harjo officiating.

Betsy was born Nov. 25, 1927 to Topley and Lizzie (Foster) Powell. Betsy loved sports and had also been an official basketball referee. She enjoyed crocheting and was the 2002 Senior Ms. Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Betsy worked in the Creek Nation Senior Citizens Gift Shop and was a member of Big Cussetah Indian United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women Association.

Mrs. Factor was preceded in death by: her husband, Joseph Factor; her parents; two sons; a daughter; a granddaughter; two sisters; and two brothers.

Survivors included: nine children, Linda Scott of Holdenville, Doris Roanhorse of Okmulgee, Gloria Lowe of Tulsa, Sarah Wolf of Edmond, Joe, John, and Bonnie Factor of the home,

David and Dean Factor of Tulsa; 27 grandchildren; 48 great-grandchildren; and 7 great-great grandchildren.

Interment was held at Big Cussetah Cemetery.

**FRANKLIN "LES" FRANCIS**

DEL CITY — Funeral services were held for Franklin Francis (U.S.M.C. Ret.) Jan. 28 at the Bill Eisenhower Southeast Chapel.

Les was born Feb. 22, 1932 to Garfield and Elizabeth (Bright) Francis. He served 26 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and was also a civil servant for 20 years at Tinker Air Force Base.

Franklin was preceded in death by: his parents; and a brother, Daniel Francis.

Survivors include: his wife, Jan L. Francis of the home; two sisters, Betty Billey of Keota, and Cherry Tsoodle of Anadarko.

Interment was held at Arlington Memory Gardens.

**ODIS HARMON**

SAN ANTONIO, TX — Funeral services were held for Odis Harmon Jan. 13 at the Christ Lutheran Church.

Odis was born June 6, 1915 to Dan and Amanda Harmon.

He worked at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, hearing over the radio about Pearl Harbor while fishing off the banks of Cibola Creek.

Odis joined the Army and did his tour of duty during WWII in the frozen wilds of Alaska, a long way from the piney woods of Oklahoma.

Throughout his life Odis remained a proud member of the Creek Tribe and a faithful subscriber and contributor to the Muscogee Nation Newspaper.

Mr. Harmon was preceded in death by: his parents; and one sister, Opal Stoops.

Survivors included: his wife,

Lou Ella of the home; five children, Helen Grace, Rachel Lou, Marilyn, Elizabeth Ann, and Daniel William; one brother, Ed Harmon; and eight grandchildren.



Harmon

**STANLEY DEAN WALKER HENRYETTA** — Graveside

services were held for Stanley Walker Jan. 26 at the Walker Family Cemetery with Alfred Berryhill officiating.



Walker

Stanley was born March 28, 1958 to Barney and Lucy Walker.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; one sister, Ella Walker; and one brother, Barney Walker, Jr.

Survivors include: five brothers, Robert Walker of Texas, Edward Walker of Ada, Tommy Walker of Coweta, Gary Walker of Eufaula, Danny Walker of Broken Arrow; and one sister, Andrea Herrod of Eufaula.

## Address

continued from B6

our Tribal College, Dr. Myra Alexander-Starr

- In 2006 our education has no boundaries.

- Jack Chaney, Reservation Roads, stated that miles of roads have been paved. More state and federal highways, rural roads to churches planned to be paved in the future. I'd like to share that with our State Representatives here today.

- Employment and Training. We pay for job training at a welding school where we have 10 students. \$1.9 million was provided to 928 families for clothing assistance, while over \$2 million was spent for students nationwide in 2005. We are now in negotiations with the city of Okmulgee. We also are looking at creating a depot in McAlester and Muskogee.

- This is something we're working on, National Council passes the legislation that creates laws and it's up to the administration to carry out our mission

- We have 96 employees with Master Degrees and we have oth-

ers with Bachelors Degrees, and 12 with Doctorates or above within this Administration. We now have 12 regular employed attorneys and eight contractual. We have 636 full-time employees, 925 total including temporary, part-time, etc. We have 439 with salaries between \$10,000-\$20,000, 29 with salaries over \$50,000. National Council received a new salary.

- I will do my best to carry out and to see our employees receive decent salaries. I pledge for better wages to all employees. In my opinion, I think no one should be paid less than \$10 per hour. We have our own full-time employees going to the food distribution and getting commodities and/or food stamps. That's just not right. We are in good shape financially. Get involved in the political process. We've accomplished a lot statewide and nationwide

I want everyone to know that I will pledge to work with National Council to take care of this nation. I'm sure they feel same way. I am very grateful and honored to represent this Nation as your Principal Chief...Mvto!

## Two burial assistance programs available

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services Department administers two programs which can provide assistance with burial needs. The first program is for indigent Native Americans who reside within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and have no resources to pay for burial expenses.

This program is funded thru the Bureau of Indian Affairs and will pay up to \$2,400.00 depending on resources. The deceased must be an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe. Another program is a tribally funded program for enrolled members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The one ex-

ception to this rule is deaths of infants under one year of age that are eligible for Creek enrollment. This program no matter where they reside or their financial status.

For either of these programs the responsible party must make application at the Social Services department by bringing in the following items: burial contract, citizenship card, social security card and residence verification (BIA ONLY).

For more information please feel free to contact Social Services Department at (918) 759-2334 or 1-800-482-1979.




*5th Annual*

## "TO BRIDGE A GAP CONFERENCE"

*March 22-24, 2006*

Green Country Technology Center  
1100 Hwy 56 ~ Okmulgee, OK 74447

This conference is strengthen relationships between the federally recognized Tribal Governments and the USDA Forest Service who have a mutual interest in managing the cultural, natural and social resources of our National Forests

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Keynote Speaker for the Banquet on  
March 23, 2006  
will be Muscogee (Creek) Citizen  
John Beaver, Repatriation Program Specialist  
Smithsonian, National Museum of the American Indian

For more information including registration please contact  
MCN Cultural Preservation Department:  
Joyce Bear (918)732-7731,  
email: [preservation@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:preservation@muscogeenation-nsn.gov)  
or Johnnie Jacobs at (918)732-7648,  
email: [jjacobs@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:jjacobs@muscogeenation-nsn.gov)

## HOT CORNER

by  
JASON SALSAMAN

Welcome to the February edition of The Hot Corner. Aton has went down in the sports world since I last put some ink to paper, so let's go ahead and tackle some of the hot-stove topics.

First off, I gotta get things rolling with the ultimate sports extravaganza, Super Bowl XL played last night in Detroit between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Seattle Seahawks. Kudos to the Steelers for getting coach Bill Cowher and team figurehead Jerome Bettis a championship. The storyline of Bettis winning his first title in his farewell game, held in the city he grew up in, was something that Hollywood couldn't even dream up. But, the stories and hype was all this one could offer I'm afraid, because the football was not very good. I found myself bored most of the time, and that's ok if it's a regular Monday night game in the middle of November, but not at the Super Bowl. I guess I've been spoiled by the last couple years and the close games that they've offered. I should be spoiled though. After all, this is supposed to be the year's best game.

Staying in football mode, high school standouts from across the country signed on to play at various colleges and universities as the epitome of recruiting season, National Signing Day, was February 1st. I want to congratulate Oklahoma high schools for putting out a great football class this year. Not only did OU, OSU and Tulsa fill their rosters with home-grown athletes, but other schools throughout Big 12 territory reached into the Oklahoma talent pool to fill their needs as well. This speaks volumes about the abilities that our athletes possess right here in Oklahoma. Maybe there is not more talent in Texas, Florida and California. Maybe there are simply more kids to choose from.

In the basketball world, all anyone wants to talk about is Kobe Bryant's 81 point game a few weeks back. I'm not too sure that people should be making this a big deal. If anything, I think it's bad for basketball at all levels. I don't think individual stats or prestige should overshadow anything, much less everything. It's the same reason I cringe when people want to give Barry Bonds icon status because of his record 73 home run season. Those people need to realize that Bonds' most telling number is not 73, it's 0; that's the number of championships he's won. A couple days after Kobe's "historic game" I overheard high school players discussing it before their practice. I wondered if media outlets were going to continue to influence young players into thinking that their interests should always solely be in themselves. I hate that this value is being put on the wrong facets of the game. In the fantasy sports age, all anyone cares about are statistics. It's just the way it is and nobody is going to change it, but it's a shame.

I sat down with John Harjo and Brent Cahwe, originators of ndnsports.com, and had a chance to talk with them about their part in showcasing Native athletes and sports. Individuals such as these two bright young men are something that our people should be proud of. Keep up the good work guys!

## Getting the word out about Native sports

by JASON SALSAMAN

MNN Staff Writer

What started in November of 2000 as an idea, has morphed into a fore-runner in Native American recognition.

John Harjo and Brent Cahwe were both students at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS when they became concerned about the lack of exposure that Native athletes were receiving. They decided to do something about it.

"We got together and wanted to come up with a way to showcase the great Native American talent that is here in Indian country," said Brent Cahwe. "John (Harjo) and I both love sports, so we thought that with sports being something that our people have a rich history with, that it would be a good avenue to pursue."

NDNsports.com has only grown with each year, becoming the absolute source for Native athletics news. A far cry from the humble beginnings.

"When the website was in it's initial stages we would log in and see 20, maybe 30 hits," said Harjo. "Pretty soon me and Brent realized it was us that had been visiting."

That is certainly not the case now, however. With website traffic increasing each day it puts more pressure on John and Brent to maintain the quality product. Since they basically pay for the upkeep of the site out of their own pocket, are responsible for

gathering content information and generally are the wheels that make it go, they barely find time that is not dedicated to NDNsports.com.

"We have been so busy because of

"I think it's great that the Native athletes are getting this recognition, all the feedback we have had has been great," said Harjo.

the growth of the site," said Cahwe. "We run the Native All-Star Football game, we have been in contact with the North Ameri-

can Indigenous Games and we have been invited to be a part of the National Indian Athletic Association. Even though it keeps us constantly busy, we want to continue to expand and keep delivering news about our Native athletes.

After six years both men did not imagine that their hard work would result in what you see today when you log on to the website. It is advanced, up to date and meets the standard of today's quality sports information-based websites. That does not however, mean that they will become complacent. It is their wish that it continues to grow and evolve.

"I think it's great that the Native athletes are getting this recognition, all the feedback we have had has been great," said Harjo. "We keep looking for people in regional areas to help spread the news and that's our goal."



## Sequoyah Indians split Tulsa showcase with Frontier

TULSA — It's not everyday that high school athletes get a chance to showcase their skills in a professional environment. It would be considered even less likely for such school to be Native-based. But the times, they might be a changing.

On Saturday, Jan. 28, the Tahl-equah Sequoyah boy's and girl's varsity basketball squads found their sneakers pounding the floor of the Tulsa Fairgrounds Pavilion as the opening act for the Tulsa 66ers, a new club in the NBA's development league.

The fans in attendance were certainly in for a great night of basketball, with both high school games pitting perennial powers in their respective

classes against each other.

Kicking off the night was the marquee match-up involving a slugfest between the top ranked Frontier Lady Mustangs of Class A and Class 3A's #1, the Sequoyah Lady Indians. The game, a re-match of a game played earlier this season in which Sequoyah won by a large margin, went back and forth with Frontier eventually getting it's revenge and outlasting the Lady Indians by a score of 73-70. Sophomore sensation Angel Goodrich's 27 points were not enough to combat the 35 poured in by Frontier's Jenna Plumley. Both girls plan to play in next month's All-Indian March Madness Tournament in Henryetta.

The boy's game matched Sequoyah with Class A defending champion Frontier. The game was close early, but Sequoyah used a run at the end of the first quarter to expand the margin and make things comfortable for the Indians the rest of the way.

Sequoyah came in to the contest as the #9 ranked team in Class 3A, and showed it has the talent to make a run at the state tournament, an accomplishment that has been fairly routine in recent years for coach Larry Grigg and the Sequoyah basketball program in general.

The Native athletes from Sequoyah were given a tremendous chance to shine on a grand stage, and regardless of outcome, they did just that.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

Third Annual All-Indian March Madness Basketball Tournament

HENRYETTA — The Third Annual All-Indian March Madness Tournament is scheduled to be held March 15-19 at the Henryetta High School and Junior High gymnasiums.

The year's tournament field will consist of 40 teams, 20 girls and 20 boys from throughout Oklahoma, as well as Arizona, Idaho, and Mississippi. Teams, made up of high school all-stars, will compete in a pool play format to determine seedings in a single elimination tournament.

Special events will include the following: college career day, all-star game, dance, and a formal awards banquet. Also, 10 scholarships recipients will be announced at the awards banquet.

Deadline for entries is March 3. For more information or to enter a team, visit [www.4loveofthegame.org](http://www.4loveofthegame.org) or contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 650-3920.

Native American Sports Camp

TAHLEQUAH — Native Vision, a sports and life skills camp for Native American athletes, is being held this year at Tahl-equah Sequoyah High School, June 4-6.

The camp is in its tenth year and provides Native youth an opportunity to play side-by-side with professional and collegiate athletes. The camp will host approximately 1,000 youth from 25 tribes, professional athletes, tribal leaders and national dignitaries.

Campers will be guided through sports clinics and life skills workshops, while the community at large participate in parenting workshops, community feasts and tribal celebrations. The Native Vision camp promotes and celebrates all that is healthy and positive in the lives of Native youth.

Native Vision's year-round goals have been designed to promote three major areas of well being for Native children and families: healthy minds, healthy bodies, and healthy families.

For more information or to sign up to participate in this camp, contact: Marlena Hammen, Native Vision Coordinator, Center for American Indian Health, 621 N. Washington, Baltimore, MD 21205, or call (410) 955-6931.

Native All-Star Football accepting applications

DENVER — The 5th Annual Native All-Star Football game, which is held in conjunction with the North American Indigenous Games, is now accepting applications from all Native high school seniors.

This game has been played four years and is growing in each year in the exposure it's getting from college coaches and scouts. The game is setup in an East vs. West format and gives native athletes, if chosen, the chance to square off with the best football players selected.

The North American Indigenous games are held in Denver with the opening ceremonies taking place at Invesco Field at Mile High Stadium, home to the NFL's Denver Broncos. For more information visit [nativeallstar.com](http://nativeallstar.com)

## OLD SCHOOL vs. NEW SCHOOL

What do you think of the World Baseball Classic?



Well, it should be an exciting time for baseball and baseball fans in general.

How many times do you get to see some of the best players in the world compete in a different setting playing for their country's pride. It will be interesting to see

just how competitive the players will be since contract negotiations and holdouts won't be top priority.

Playing for a million dollars is one thing, but going all out for your home land, and making a statement that where you are from can boast that they are the best in the entire world, that's something else.

Gives an entirely new meaning to the definition "World Champion!"



I'm the biggest baseball fan in the world, don't get me wrong, but I don't see any way that this is a good deal. I don't care if Albert Pujols

wants to represent the Dominican Republic, he is paid and under con-

tract to be the best he can be for the St. Louis Cardinals. Can you imagine your favorite team's best player breaking a hand and missing the first half of the season in a meaningless game against Chinese Taipei? Neither can I. It just doesn't add up, if these guys want to play for their country fine, but let them do it every four years in the Olympic games. Not when they should be in Spring Training!





McCulley expresses himself through stone art



Creek Nation Casino Promotions



Billy Sims Barbecue, former Sooner great tries his hand as the art of spicy meat



## Section C, Page 1

## MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

February 2006

# The New World presents old story told with new native actress

OKMULGEE — "The New World" takes us again into the never-ending beautiful cinematic landscape that was pre-America as we know it today.

The luscious scenery, untouched nature and breath-taking backdrops is exactly what the viewer receives when viewing this film made by Director Terrence Malick.

The story takes place in Virginia in the year 1607. The British have arrived and colonization is occurring. Some of the tribes are friendly, while others are hostile and show it. Eventually one English soldier named John Smith, who is truly a soldier of fortune, having arrived in chains and shackles due to insubordination.

Even though Smith's is not first-class, he will be given the responsibility to make contact with the Indians and establish some type of relationship. Of course, the familiar story of Smith being taken captive by Indians and with his life in danger, is given mercy due the pleading of tribal member Pocahontas, played by

Q'Orianka Kilcher in her first major movie role.



Q'Orianka Kilcher as 'Pocahontas' in Terrence Malick's *New World*.

Kilcher is of Quechoa and Huachipaeri descent as well as Alaskan and Swiss. Kilcher, who is only 15, plays the part of the merciful Indian maiden and her portrayal of Pocahontas presents a character that truly develops during the course of the film.

At first we see the young girl as someone who is drawn back in her own world, but eventually creates a friendship with Smith which grows stronger.

The film also stars Christopher Plummer as the Captain and Colin Farrell as John Smith. Native Actor Wes Studi plays Opechancanough.

"The New World" will be playing at movie theatres in: Tulsa, AMC Southroads 20, located at 4923 E. 41st St.; Oklahoma City, AMC Quail Springs Mall, located at 2501 W. Memorial; and Shawnee, Hollywood-Movies 6, inside the Shawnee Mall.

## Creek artist nominated for Best Female Artist

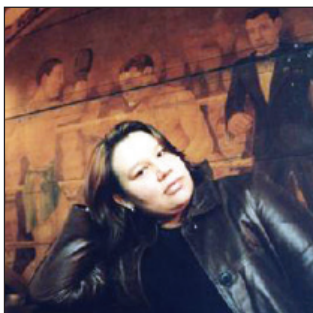
OKMULGEE — Okemah native Jamie Coon is a nominee for Best Female Artist at the Southern California Music Awards. The award show will be held Feb. 11 at the Warner Grand Theatre in San Pedro, California. This past September Coon signed a publishing and licensing deal with Rip-tide Music.

Located in Santa Monica, California Riptide places music in major television shows and film.

Their music company's credits

include: 'Sex and the City', 'CSP', '24', 'Smallville', 'Batman Begins', and the Johnny Cash biography movie, 'Walk the Line'. Coon is currently promoting her debut album 'Everything So Far' and writing new music for the upcoming Independent film titled 'Long Term Relationship'.

Coon's album is available at: towerrecords.com and amazon.com. More information is also available at www.jamiecoon.com.



Jamie Coon

## Movies at a Glance with Josh Slane

When I first saw a preview for Annapolis, I had high hopes for the movie. Hollywood has had a large amount of success with war movies lately, coming out with movies like "We Were Soldiers" and "Saving Private Ryan" and I hoped some

of the success would bleed over into a movie about training soldiers. Unfortunately it didn't. The movie begins predictably enough, a kid, wanting to get into a good military, school. After his acceptance, he goes to a bar and meets a girl, (of course) who turns out to be one of his C.O.s. Sound familiar? It should if you saw Top Gun (and if you haven't you need to).

From there, things continue fairly predictably, he has problems with the movie's

whiz kid (and golden glove champion) and gets to fight him in the huge boxing tournament. Annapolis is holding, has problems with his drill instructor (who incidentally, is (or was) a Marine, they never really explain that part) and gets to fight him in the

big boxing tournament as well. He also befriends the kid who is having problems with the military life, and helps him get through a few problems.

All in all though, it's not a bad movie if you want to go spend a couple of hours, but it's not highly recommended unless you just really enjoy military movies. Movies at a Glance movies are provided by the Dickinson Starworld 20 theater in Tulsa.



## TeAta World Premiere offers opportunity for Oklahoma actors

Chickasaw News

MIDWEST CITY— Actors across Oklahoma and the nation are invited to audition for the world premiere of "TeAta, A Play With Music."

The ground breaking production, set to debut in the fall, showcases the life of world-renowned storyteller and actress TeAta Thompson Fisher (1895-1995).

Playwright and artistic director Judy Lee Oliva sees the world premiere as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Oklahoma actors to audition for the production slated for national audiences. Auditions are scheduled Feb. 25 at the Rose State College H.B. Atkinson Theatre on the campus of Rose State College. Oliva said there are 13 roles to cast in a "dialogue-driven production with exciting elements of song and dance. The open roles include: Dr. Fisher, a Caucasian between 50-70 years old,

preferably with shocking white hair; Miss Davis, a Caucasian of about 30-40 years; Young TeAta, aged between 16-25, Native American or mixed race; Old TeAta, a Native American or mixed race woman between ages 50-70; Margaret, a Caucasian woman between age 16-25, preference given to actress who plays violin; Kuruks, a Native American aged 16-25, preferably a Native flute player; Ataloo, a Native American or person of mixed race, age 16-25, who must be an accomplished singer. "We also need six chorus members - three male and three female. We need actors, singers, dancers, a female violin player who can also act; we need American Indian actors and we need people from all cultures and ethnic backgrounds, and all ages" Oliva said. "There are many opportunities for talented actors to win a coveted role in this pioneering and diverse production." Oliva, a citizen of the Chickasaw

Nation, said this production offers a tremendous opportunity for the theater arts community in Oklahoma to produce a never-before-seen work of national importance.

Prospective actors are encouraged to prepare a one-minute monologue and 16 bars of a song. An accompanist will be provided. As audition times are limited, the play's author encourages preregistration. Interested actors should send an e-mail indicating interest and requesting a time slot to Oliva at JLOLIVA@aol.com. Auditioners should bring a photo and short resume. "Our goal is to make this a real Oklahoma event and cast as many Oklahomans as possible," Oliva said. "This truly is an epic event. The potential for this production is unlimited. What better way to usher in Oklahoma's Centennial celebrations than to capture and tell the story of an American Indian woman from Oklahoma who helped deliver the Na-

tive culture to audiences around the world?" In a career that spanned eight decades, TeAta showcased her enormous talents in a one-woman show as she performed before presidents, kings and queens and peoples from all walks of life. The famed storyteller earned international acclaim for her talents during her lifetime, including being named as Oklahoma's first State Treasure. Oliva said the play dramatizes TeAta's life, transporting the audience back to her life as a young girl to her triumphant career on Broadway and the return to her home and roots in the red soils of Oklahoma. It is a story of perseverance, deliverance, and poetic resolve for one of Oklahoma's most beloved historic figures.

More information about the show and the auditions is available on-line at www.TeAtaWorldPremiere.com.



**Ted Isham**

Creek Council House Museum Curator

**OKMULGEE** — Last month, we talked about the history of the Creek Council House Museum. Now we wish to share information about the Council House building itself.

Today as a museum, the Creek Council House Museum holds many items from the history of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, but the largest and single most important artifact within the collections of the Creek Council House Museum is the building itself. As an artifact and as part of a museum, it becomes the subject of a set of standards of care and curation. The definition of the word curator is set within this museum principle for care of objects, as the curator is the one who is the caretaker of the items within a collection. As a caretaker, the preservation of objects from the past and even the present is conducted to make such objects available and accessible today and as far as possible into the future. It is an equally important endeavor for the general public to engage in as an aid in keeping the threads of their histories intact. They need to consider these preservation activities for their own artifacts.

In order to understand who we are as Creeks, we need to look at and understand where we have come from, and the history of our tribe is the place to begin this journey. The Creek Tribe has its history intertwined within the walls of this building. This building, that was so carefully built in 1878 by our leaders of old. It has been a central part of the history of our Nation here in the Indian Territory since the end of the Civil War, until the advent of the state of Oklahoma and the selling of the building to the city of Okmulgee in the early teens.

Much of our current situation as a Tribe came about from that early history which leads us up to the Allotment Act and Statehood. This building

was a witness to those events that have changed us forever. Thousands and thousands of allotment deeds were signed here by our last Principal Chief before Statehood, Pleasant Porter, and during the waning moments of the tribal government. The idea for a proposed Native state of Sequoyah was developed here only to have much of the preparatory work to be used in the Oklahoma

Statehood effort. This building was the breeding ground for many of the ideas seen today in the state of Oklahoma's constitution. Our schools and educational system had its place here also, as some classes were taught in the building. The per-capita payments from earlier treaties were disbursed from here. And finally among many other moments of history, the last person to be executed under the old judicial system happened here.

The Council House is no exception to the fact of history being integral to the structure, thus leading us today to think about the future generations. When our leaders from the past endeavored to construct a building to house the workings of our government, they did not know how far into the future their efforts would last, but they surely knew of how the past needed to be remembered. This Council House building, as a piece of our history,

is of such importance that the physical structure is meant for curation. It becomes the main item within the collection of the museum. Questions like, where were the old treaties, what was the law of the land, how many Creeks were there, all arose and helped bring about the centralization of our governmental arm of the Creek Nation. The need for a building to hold all contents

of the history is what the Creek Council House Museum is now all about. This becomes the central place whereby we can have access to our histories.

The introduction of the written word from the missionaries among us brought about the ability and need to codify our laws and history as a paramount issue. Where are these words to be housed, in far away, non-accessible institutions, or even foreign countries? This museum represents much of what is Creek history; it needs to be looked after. Can we have this building available to our descendants in 10 years, how about 50 years, or even the next century? We need curation of this building to be an ongoing event.

As an artifact within a museum collection, there are procedures that occur to insure the longevity and contin-

ued accessibility of the object. The procedures that we adhere to in maintaining the integrity of the building are; not attaching any object or structure to the building in a permanent manner, keeping the building as original as possible, watching the temperature and humidity levels within the building, and making repairs as necessary to insure the safety of the building.

In 1992, the community of Okmulgee undertook a major restoration to the building that restored much of the original integrity. The restoration effort cost approximately \$1.5 million dollars and was undertaken as an act of love for the history of the building. This is a responsibility not taken lightly. It is a long-term commitment. The same idea goes along with the general public's personal history curation efforts.

Many, many items of antiquity, of our own family histories, have deteriorated due to the lack of proper care. Not that we were careless, it is just the fact that there are environmental issues that we do not have control of that promotes the ultimate deterioration of our own artifacts and causes their demise. Letters written by the hands of our ancestors turn to dust, pictures of family from long ago fade away before our eyes, and our connection to each of our family histories diminishes with each passing generation. Proper care of our artifacts is vitally important to who we are, if we are to have a history to pass to our descendants. This is the reason for having a place such as the Creek Council House Museum be an integral part of the current history. Without these places of historical refuge, there may not be a history of who we are for our descendants to read about and view. We will have been forgotten in the veil of time.

If there is anything that we here at the Creek Council House Museum can do to help preserve your history, please call us and come visit with us about your preservation issues. We can give you advice on what to do or not to do and can direct you to more information to assist your preservation efforts.

Mvtekosan makaranis,  
Hvtyvm chehecares Mvto  
cekiavkis ci!



## McCulley expresses himself through stone art

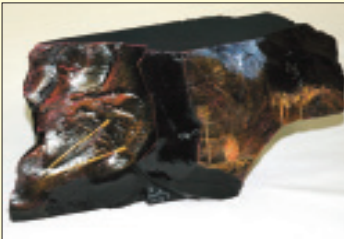
**PRYOR** — Creek Citizen Bill McCulley is the son of Frank and Effie McCulley. McCulley currently resides in Pryor. For the past three plus years, McCulley has expressed his art on various shaped stone and canvas. McCulley uses acrylic and water colors.

His art work may be viewed and displayed at: the Native Art Gallery, Tulsa; Five Civilized Tribe Museum, Muskogee; Cherokee Heritage Center, Tahlequah; Drysdale's Western Wear, Tulsa; Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa; Tribes Art Gallery, Norman; Muscogee (Creek) Nation Gift Shop, Okmulgee; and the Red Stick Gallery, Okmulgee.

"His style of art is interesting to Native people," said Wayne Ramer, Red Stick Gallery Manager. "McCulley gathers slate rock from creeks by the Illinois River, then he

varnishes them, turning the stone to a shiny black before he paints his artwork."

For more information, contact Bill McCulley at (918) 824-1253.



### Upcoming art shows

#### Art Under the Oaks

**TULSA** — The Art Under the Oaks Art Show will be held April 2 - 30, at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum located at 1101 Honor Heights Drive. Awards and Reception will be April 2 at 2 p.m. in the Museum Gallery.

For more information call (918) 683-1701.

#### Red Cloud Art Show

**PINE RIDGE, South Dakota** — Artwork from 25 tribes or more will be on display at the Red Cloud Art Show. With over \$5000 in awards for American Indian artists, it's the nation's largest Indian art show held on a reservation.

No entry fees are charged to the artists. All works must be for sale and each year about forty percent or more of the artwork is sold to the public. Open seven days a week June 4 - August 18. Free to the public.

For more information, contact the Heritage Center at: 100 Mission Drive, Pine Ridge, SD 57770 or e-mail heritagecenter@redcloudschool.org.

#### 20th Annual Tulsa Indian Art Festival

**TULSA** — The 20th Annual Tulsa Indian Art Festival will be held at the Tulsa Event Center, located at 2625 Memorial Drive, on Feb. 17 - 19. General admission is \$5. Some of the activities include an art market, cultural demonstrations, educational exhibits, and storytelling.



# TulsaPromotions



## Casino Promotions

### Sweetheart of a deal

We're here to make your life a little sweeter at Creek Nation Casino! 60 winners will be awarded every day through February 28, with drawings at 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m., 9 p.m., and 12 a.m. Each person whose name is drawn will choose a candy bar worth up to \$10,000 in cash. All candy bars MUST GO on February 27 and 28. It will definitely be the richest chocolate you have ever had!

### The Great 8 ATV Giveaway

We are giving away an ATV every Tuesday night at Creek Nation Casino! Register at the Players Club starting at 6 pm every Tuesday through February 28. We will have hourly cash drawings for \$100 from 7 pm to 9 pm leading up to our ATV giveaway each Tuesday at 10 p.m. Don't miss your chance to be one of the Great 8!

### If you snooze, you lose...

Having trouble sleeping? Or are you a night owl? Head down to Creek Nation Casino for our new late night promotion! Swipe in at Guest Services starting at 11 pm every Sunday through Wednesday for \$150 drawings from 12 a.m.-3 a.m. and a final drawing at 4 am for \$400!

**Men's Night - Big League Fantasy**  
Creek Nation Casino's Big League

Fantasy promotion will fulfill any guy's dream! The Grand Prize Winner will receive a trip for two to the 2006 NBA Finals, 2006 Stanley Cup Finals, 2006 World Series, and 2007 Super Bowl. Between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. every Wednesday, drawings will be held every half hour with prizes totaling \$2,500. At 10 p.m., we will pick two lucky winners to receive \$500 plus a Big League Fantasy Certificate that could possibly earn you the Big League Fantasy Grand Prize on February 22!

### Ladies Night - Queen of Machines

Ladies, here's your chance to drive off in a brand new Chevy Cobalt! Swipe your cards starting at 6 p.m. every Monday, because at 7 p.m., 50 ladies will be drawn to compete in our \$10 match play tournament. The winner of each round will play in the final round of the night totaling \$2,500 in cash prizes. Plus, the top two scores from each week's tournament will win a seat in our Bring Back Tournament on Feb. 20 to compete for the 2006 Chevy Cobalt!

### Seniors Wake Up and Win

Seniors, rise and shine at Creek Nation Casino Mondays through Thursdays. From 9 am to 1 pm, our valued senior guests will receive \$5 free play and complimentary breakfast at our Jackpot Café. What better way to start the

day than with Creek Nation Casino's Wake Up and Win promotion.

## Poker Promotions

### The big bounty poker tournament

Play in The Big Bounty, our newest No Limit Hold'em Tournament every Thursday and Sunday at 7 pm and receive an extra \$20 for every player you eliminate! Registration begins at 6:30 pm and is open to everyone, with a total buy-in of \$115.

### Daily River Showdown

Pull up a seat in Oklahoma's most upscale Poker Room for our Daily River Showdown tournaments starting at 9 am. Registration begins at 8:30 am and is open to everyone, with a total buy-in of just \$30.00.

### Ladies Texas Hold'em Tournaments

Ladies Night Texas Hold'em tournaments start at 7 pm every Monday. Registration begins at 6:30 pm and is open to all ladies, with a total buy-in of just \$30.00.

### Men's Night - The Big One Poker Tournament

The Big One, Creek Nation Casino's Men's Night no-limit Texas Hold'em

tournament starts at 7 pm every Wednesday, with registration beginning at 6:30 pm (\$115 total buy-in).

### Texas Hold'em Progressive Bad Beat Jackpots

Losing Never Felt So Good! Creek Nation Casino's new Progressive Bad Beat Jackpots consist of three separate progressive jackpots awarded to hands of aces full of jacks losing to a better hand.

### Texas Hold'em High Highlands

Good hands are hard to come by, and at Creek Nation Casino, Texas Hold'em high hands pay bonuses 24 hours a day, seven days a week with progressive bonuses on four of a kind, straight flush, and royal flush hands increasing \$100 a day.

## Black Jack Promotions

### Paydays of Spades

Receive a suited spaded Blackjack and win a bonus of \$25.00 during our Paydays of Spades promotion. With our now famous Envy Bonus, each player at the table who is actively betting will be awarded a bonus matching his or her original bet, up to \$10. Other great bonuses include: 7-7-7 of Spades - \$150; 6-7-8 of Spades - \$100.

# OkmulgeePromotions

## VIP Birthday Reward

If you have a birthday in February, stop by our promotion desk and register by February 24th. Then come in at 7 p.m. on the 25th and receive a \$10 Free Play and a birthday cupcake.

## Second chance Sundays

We've doubled your chances for \$100!

Swipe your Cache Card for a shot at \$100. If you don't win the first time, stick around for the second drawing. The first drawing will be held at 7 p.m. with the second drawing following at 9 p.m. (Must be present to win)

## Hundred Dollar Bumper

Swipe your Cache Card for your shot at \$100. All you have to do is have one of our FREE bumper stickers on your vehicle and listen for your name to be called. The actual drawing will be at 6 p.m.

## VIP Seniors

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Fridays  
Each week we celebrate our Senior Citizen guests by offering the first 100 participants a \$5 FREE Play. Simply swipe your Cache Card for the Free Play and you will also be entered into drawings held every half hour for \$10. There will also be a 2 p.m. drawing for \$25. (Must be 50 years of age or over. Must have a Cache Card to participate. Must be present to win.)

## Nova Card Promo

Feb. 23, 6:00p.m. - 10:00  
Each person playing NOVA games

will pick a playing card from a deck until two decks are used. The card chosen could win you a prize from a \$5 Match Play on a NOVA Machine, to a \$20 FREE PLAY on a NOVA Machine. Players will then sign the card chosen and it will be placed into a hopper for a drawing held at 10 p.m. for \$100.

## Cash Bash

Each Wednesday in February a Rocket representative will be randomly passing out entries to those playing on any of Rocket's Games. There will then be 5 drawings, one every 30 minutes, between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Each time there is no winner the cash prize will be added to the next round. The last drawing on each night must go.

Drawing prizes for February 1st through 22nd: 1st: \$25, 2nd: \$50, 3rd: \$75, 4th: \$100, 5th: \$200

Drawing prizes for Saturday, February 25th: 1st: \$100, 2nd: \$200, 3rd: \$300, 4th: \$400, 5th: \$500

## Okmulgee Casino's 19th Birthday

And they're inviting their customers to get in on the fun. On February 25, starting at 2:00 p.m. and running until 10:00 there will be Anniversary Cake and frozen drinks for all the customers, and the first 300 customers through the door will receive a commemorative gift.

They will also be having drawings Creek Nation Casino - Okmulgee features over 300 machines, blackjack, and poker and is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (table games open at 4 pm daily).

Join the exclusive VIP Players Club and receive instant perks including

a VIP Club lapel pin, your personal VIP card and more.

Creek Nation Casino - Okmulgee is located at Hwy. 75 on Eufaula St. Okmulgee, Oklahoma. 74447. For more information call (918) 756-8400.

## Table games

### 2 for 1 Thursdays

Two is always better than one! Each Thursday in February, join us at Creek Nation Casino and play 2 black jack hands side by side for only 1 ante. Offer good from 4:00 p.m. until closing time.

Ante amount applies for the largest hand played.

### Bonus Hand Sundays

Hit a bonus hand while playing our table games and get a FREE Bonus Hand T-shirt and an entry into a drawing for a gift basket of logo items along with \$25 in chips.

Drawing will be held on Sunday, Feb. 26 at Midnight.

## Spin the Wheel Tuesdays

Participants that receive a Bonus Hand on a Black Jack table will receive a chance to spin our prize wheel, loaded with a variety of cash and prizes.

Bonus hands consist of a 6, 7, 8 (suited or unsuited), 7, 7, 7, (suited or unsuited) or a 5 Card Charlie.

## Every day is a payday

Thursdays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Be one of the first 25 participants to swipe your Cache card and get a delicious Payday Candy bar and \$5.00 match play.

## Late Night Fun

Thursdays, Midnight - 2:00 a.m..  
Here's a promotion for all the insomniacs out there. Be one of the first 25 participants to swipe their Cache card and receive a free \$5.00 match play. After all, if you're awake, you might as well be having fun.

## Warm up with hot seats

Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 . We are going to help keep you a little warmer this winter. Join us every Thursday for our hot seat drawings and every winner will receive a \$10 match play and a FREE CNCO t-shirt.

## Midway Wednesday

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

We are having hot seat drawings every 20 minutes. Each hot seat drawing winner will then have their Cache card swiped and will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 match play held at 3:00 p.m.

## Creek Nation Casino Okmulgee

Okmulgee features over three hundred machines. Blackjack, and poker is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, table games are open at 4 pm daily).

Join the exclusive VIP Players Club and receive instant perks, including a VIP Club lapel pin, your personal VIP card and more. Okmulgee Creek Nation Casino is located at Hwy. 75 on Eufaula St. For more information call (918) 756-8400.

## Billy Sims Barbecue-former Sooner great tries his hand at the art of spicy meat

by GERALD WOFFORD  
MNN Staff Writer

TULSA — In 1978, a young running back whose hometown was Hooks, Texas continued the tradition of great University of Oklahoma football players by winning the coveted Heisman Trophy. The Sooner running back would gain 1,762 yards on 231 carries while averaging 7.6 yards per carry.

The player's name was Billy Sims who took his awesome running mixture of speed and power to the next level. Playing for the Detroit Lions of the National Football League for four years before a knee injury would force him to retire, but not before receiving 'Rookie of the Year' honors and being named to the Pro Bowl for three years. In 1995, Billy Sims was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Today, Sims is considered Sooner Royalty, being only one of four Oklahoma players to win the Heisman. He serves as Vice President of America Can, a non-profit organization based in Dallas that helps troubled youth through charter school education.

Sims makes many public appearances today, and is just as honored as he was back when he was grinding it out on the gridiron. The iron, though has changed to the iron on the smoker, barbecue smoker that is. Sims was approached by Tulsa businessman Jeff Jackson about the possibilities of creating a Barbecue restaurant with the famous Sooner's identity. Jackson is also founder and owner of the *Sports Fan-Attic*, which retails collegiate and professional sports apparel and memorabilia to fans.

But even with the support of a legendary Sooner player, Jackson knew the product would still need to be high quality. "Creating a fun ambience that pays tribute to Billy and to OU football tradition is one of our most important goals," says Jackson. "But we know that it doesn't matter what décor you have hanging on the walls if the food isn't high quality. That's why our primary focus is serving excellent barbecue that you won't find anywhere else."

The décor that Jackson mentions is certainly a great part of Billy Sims Barbecue. Longhorn, Cornhusker, or OSU fans may feel just a little out of place as the restaurant certainly pays tribute not only to Sims, but to the football program at the University of Oklahoma. Sooner Jerseys, photos, and other memorabilia dot the walls. Visual entertainment is also provided as round the clock DVD highlights are presented about the great history of Sooner football as seen from monitors hanging from the walls. Although a Barry Sanders jersey does grace one of the walls. Fans interested in obtaining souvenirs can visit the Sports Fan-attic just across the street. The sporting goods store has items such as autographed footballs, mugs, apparel and much more.

Billy Sims Barbecue is in the Farm Shopping Center located at 5213 South Sheridan Road. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



## Billy Sims Barbecue Food Review by Jason Salsman

TULSA — I'm probably the biggest Sooner football fan that has ever lived. I've been with them through the glory days of the '80s, rode the wave as they were mediocre, then flat-out terrible in the '90s. And I hung around to see them make good again here in recent years.

It was nice to walk in to Billy Sims' Barbecue at The Farm shopping center in Tulsa and see all the historic OU memorabilia. Old jerseys, pictures and signed merchandise adorned the walls. But, as

much as it pains me to say it, that was about as good as it got. Now, I'm not saying that the food was down-right terrible because it wasn't. I just expected a little more from knowing the greatness that we as Sooner fans have come to expect from Billy Sims.

After carefully looking over the menu, I decided to try "The Heisman." This is basically a sandwich that includes three meats and is a bit overdone. The meats that were included were sliced

beef, bologna and hot links. Now, it might have been my fault for literally biting off a little more than I could chew, so it's not quite as bad as it seems. I'm sure a host of people think it's really great, but my personal preference would have been something else. The absolute worst thing that a barbecue restaurant can be guilty of in my opinion is having a commercial taste. The sandwich was not bad, it just did not have any original flavor to it. There wasn't anything about the food that made me believe that whoever was making it really knew what they were doing when it came to barbecue.

The sauce was decent, but once again was accompanied by that same taste that lets you know it is not anything special. It kind of makes me think somebody just got some Bull's Eye and put it in a dispenser.

Billy, if you're reading this I don't mean to be too harsh. As a fellow alumnus and lifelong fan I don't care if you have the worst eating establishment in the world! I still crack up at your antics at the 2003 Heisman ceremony. I'm just saying that your game is nothing like your restaurant; very average at best.

Rating System- Two and a half out of Five Stars. \*8/12

The food views are based on Jason Salsman's views and opinions and do not reflect the opinions of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or the Muscogee Nation News.

Want to put your eating establishment to the test?

Be a part of the *Muscogee Nation News* Food Review

Ever wonder if your place of business is up to par? Catch yourself wanting to know what the customers really think? Well, put all those uncertainties to rest and be a part of the *Muscogee Nation News* monthly Food Review.

Each month Gerald Wofford and Jason Salsman of the Communications Department will be selecting a culinary establishment to put to the test. If you think yours or your community's eatery has the goods, then do not be afraid to pick up the phone and invite us to come check it out. This is certainly a good way to advertise your business if you think your food is something that is a hidden gem, and it is a fun avenue to do so. We will not only provide a history and unique background story of your business but include a critique of the food as well.

If you would like to be a part of this review and put your establishment in the spotlight simply note the following contact information:

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